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JOURNALS OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

1774–1789

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PREFATORY NOTE

The Continental Congress was in session throughout the year 1776. Its formal record is large as compared with the records of 1775, and the number and importance of the subjects coming before it were greater. The army must be maintained and renewed; the Canadian invasion ended in disaster; and the ill effects of the manoeuvres near New York were only in part counteracted by the success of Trenton. As the field of operations widened the cost of the war became heavier, and with the increase of responsibilities the want of good officers was more keenly felt. The continental bills of credit, pure promissory notes with little real foundation of property or resources on which to rest, were already sinking in value, and wherever the British army moved, the bills ceased to circulate or were accepted at rates less than their face value. The first enthusiasm of the people had somewhat cooled, and the prospects of years of war made a better paid and a better disciplined army essential as well as economical. The dependence upon militia, called out for a few months, was radically defective. To obtain a regular army the men must be enlisted for three years or "for the war"; their pay must be more certain, and a better selection of officers must be made. Congress faces these problems, and with them the question of bounties on enlistment and grants of land after service. With this

appears an issue destined long to trouble Congress and prevent a true confederation—that of the disposal of the lands to the westward, covered by conflicting claims of two or more States and an object of jealousy on the part of the States which had no such claims to assert.

The year 1776 includes some of the most important acts and papers of the Continental Congress. The Declaration of Independence, the first forms of the Articles of Confederation, and the plan of treaties with foreign Powers were of high moment; and any one of these papers, when measured by results or consequences would be sufficient to distinguish the legislation of this year. The methods of treatment laid down in the former volumes of this issue of the Journals have been continued. Of the Declaration no less than four forms or stages are recorded; of the Articles of Confederation three, and of the plan of treaties two, and a scheme of supplementary instructions for the negotiators. The formal mission of Silas Deane to interest the Court of France on the side of the States, and the sending of commissioners to Europe to solicit recognition, trade and aid, were the beginnings of the diplomatic relations of the United States with foreign Powers.

The earliest advance from the Court of France received no notice in the Journals, and deserves a mention.

Achard Bonvouloir was a French gentleman, connected with the Marquis de Lambert, and claimed to have served as a volunteer in the French army in the West Indies. Contracting disease he left St. Domingo and travelled in the English colonies on the continent of North America. He asserted that he could have had an appointment in the "patriot" army, but declined the offer, and formed connections in the different colonies for obtaining infor-

mation which might be useful in Europe. Going to London he made a tender of his services to the French Ambassador, Comte de Guines, who recommended to Vergennes that he be employed. He received verbal instructions to report upon the general disposition of the British colonists in North America, to speak of France as a friendly nation, and to endeavor to remove any fear of the French and their possible designs which it might be sought to inspire. September 8, 1775, Bonvouloir left London for Philadelphia, and after a venturesome voyage of one hundred days reached his destination. With Daymon, described as a librarian of the city, as an intermediary, he placed himself in communication with the Committee of Secret Correspondence, and found the ground already prepared for giving credence to his accounts of the friendliness of the French and the probability of obtaining some definite aid, if not recognition from the French Court.[1]

His report was sent from Philadelphia under date December 28, 1775. Written at that time his view was favorable to the colonies. Montreal had surrendered and Quebec appeared to be about to fall. The privateers had captured many English vessels, some bearing provisions and munitions of war to the British army, now closely confined within Boston. The colonists needed a navy, engineers, ammunition and money. In quite frank conversations with Franklin and three other members of the Committee of Secret Correspondence, Bonvouloir stated his friendliness and apparently succeeded in winning confidence by leaving an impression of some definite purpose, not unconnected with French State policy, being behind his visit to America. He made no offer of aid

[1] See *Journals of the Continental Congress*, III, 392, *ante*.

beyond what should depend upon himself, and in cautious phrase replied to the somewhat direct and expectant questions of the Committee, which had been reduced to writing;[1] he discouraged the sending of an envoy, but good engineers could be had for the asking. Munitions of war could be had in exchange for the products of the country, but it must be as between merchants, and at the risk of the Congress. This is the only report which appears to have been received from this French agent, and, after the recall of his patron, Comte de Guines, he was not further employed. The Beaumarchais connection was made, fruitful source of trouble to all concerned.

In civil matters the formation of State governments under constitutions prepared the way for a decline in the energy and influence of the Continental Congress. Possessing advisory power only, and acting under no formal instrument defining its functions or manner of performance, addresses and recommendations were the only means of expressing its wishes, its needs and its measure of remedy. In issuing a paper currency of bills of credit, it exercised a certain influence, even control, over the exertions made by the States. So long as the expenses were to be paid by the Continent, the Congress could direct the details and the results; but when the cost was to be paid by the State, recommendations from the Congress carried weight only so far as they fell in with the expediency of the local authorities. A new danger based upon the depreciation of the currency became evident, undermining the authority of the Congress, and certain to become a serious menace to all its operations and even to its very existence. The currency problem is treated

[1] A translation of this paper, with the reply of Bonvouloir, is printed in Doniol, *Historie de la Participation de la France à l'Etablissement des Etats Unis d'Amérique*, I, 268, 269.

in two reports, one of which, prepared by Jefferson, is entirely new. In this year Congress issued two addresses to the People of the Colonies and States. It considered a declaration to General Howe, prepared by Jefferson; a letter to the Canadians, and a report on the conference with Lord Howe. Some letters of Hancock, written by order of Congress, are inserted, as well as Franklin's notes of a conference with La Jeunesse and Dantermond.

On military matters the number and importance of the reports and conferences is greater than in 1775. New articles of war modeled upon those of Great Britain, were adopted. The papers relating to the conference of Washington, Schuyler, and Gates with a committee of Congress are vital, and can now be studied in detail. The affair of the Cedars, the report on the state of the army at New York, and the various addresses to the Hessian mercenaries also deserve mention. The contest over Schuyler, raised by New England, resulted in his supercession by Gates; and at the close of the year Congress flies from Philadelphia, conferring upon Washington, as a confession of military impotency, the powers of a Dictator. Privateering is regulated and the beginnings of prize courts established. French adventurers troop to Philadelphia and offer their services in the higher ranks of the army.

The notes of debates in Congress by John Adams are supplemented by those of Thomas Jefferson; and a speech of John Witherspoon on the message from Lord Howe is the first of the more full and formal records of opinion expressed in the Congress.

Matter inclosed in parallels, thus ||———|| is taken from the "Corrected Journal", described in the Prefatory Note to Volume II of this issue. The Washington, Jefferson

and Madison manuscripts in the Library of Congress, have been drawn upon for material, but even with this help many reports are wanting to complete the record. The originals have been lost or scattered, and the Library would be grateful for any assistance in locating them, or drafts of them to be found in private collections of historical papers.

WORTHINGTON CHAUNCEY FORD
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JOURNALS
1776

JOURNALS OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

1776

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 1776

A letter from Governor Trumbull, 23 December, 1775, being received, was read.[1]

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee appointed to consider on Captain Simeon Sellick's petition,[2] which was agreed to, as follows:

That they have maturely considered the petition, and have examined Captain Sellick particularly thereon, and are of Opinion, that the petitioner be allowed, as a compensation for his expences, trouble, and risque in taking the goods at Turtle bay, for the use of the United Colonies, the sum of 333 1/3 dollars, and that the committee of Fairfield be directed to take into their possession, for the use of the said colonies, all the goods taken by Captain Sellick, which are not already delivered by him, and to forward the two boxes of saltpetre now in Captain Sellick's custody, to the powder Mill in Ulster county, to be manufactured into powder for the continental service.

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 66, I, folio 51.

[2] See *Journals* II, 463, 467.

The Congress, took into consideration the report of the Committee on Lord Stirling's letter, after debate thereon,

Resolved, That the same be recommitted.

The Congress proceeded to the election of an Adjutant for the batallion raised in Pensylvania, and the ballots being taken,

John Patterson was elected.

Resolved, That the president sign commissions to the field officers appointed by the provincial Congress of North Carolina, to command the two batallions directed to be raised in that colony by the Continental Congress, and that such commissions shall bear like date with those issued to the said officers by the said provincial Congress of North Carolina.

Resolved, That, in case of vacancy occasioned by the death or removal of a colonel or inferior officer, the provincial Congress of North Carolina, or, in their recess, the provincial Council, appoint another person to fill up such vacancy, until a commission shall issue from this Congress; and that they return to this Congress a list of the names of the person or persons so appointed.

The delegates of New York having received new powers from their convention, laid the same before Congress, as follows:

In Provincial Congress,

New York, Die Jovis, 3d h. o. P. M. December 21st, 1775.

Resolved, That the present Delegates of this Colony, in Continental Congress, be requested to make such an Arrangement among themselves, as that five of them only continue at Congress, and represent this Colony at any one Time; And that, in case of the necessary absence of any one or two of the Delegates so attending, according to such Arrangement, that three or four of them be a Quorum, and enabled to represent the Colony during such absence.

A true Copy from the Minutes.

John M'Kesson, *Secretary*.[1]

[1] The original is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, New York, *Credentials of Delegates*.

The committee to whom the letters from General Washington, and the intercepted letters, were referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration, ||the Congress came to the following resolutions||:

Resolved, That the seizing and securing the barracks and castle of St. Augustine will greatly contribute to the safety of these colonies, therefore it is earnestly recommended to the colonies of South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia to undertake the reduction of St. Augustine, if it be thought practicable.

Resolved, That the president of the provincial council of North Carolina and Georgia, be requested to procure committees of their several bodies to repair immediately to Charleston, and there to confer with a committee of the council of safety of South Carolina, upon weighty and important matters relative to the defence and security of those colonies.

Resolved, That the first resolution together with copies or extracts of such of the intercepted letters as tend to shew the state of the forts and garrison at St. Augustine be transmitted by express to Henry Middleton and John Rutledge Esq[rs] members of Congress to be by them laid before the committees directed to meet [at Charleston] in consequence of the above resolution and in case the enterprize be judged practicable that immediate preparations be made by the joint force of the said colonies (viz South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia) and the expedition be undertaken without delay at the expence of the united colonies.

Resolved, That it appears the British ministry and their agents have meditated and are preparing to make attacks upon Charleston, in South Carolina, and several places in Virginia, and probably in North Carolina; and that it be recommended to the conventions or committees of safety

of the two former colonies, and to the provincial council of the other, by all possible means, to make a vigorous defence and opposition; and that it be farther recommended to the committee of safety of Virginia, and the provincial council of North Carolina, to meet together and confer and conclude upon such operations as they may think most for their mutual interest.

Adjourned to 10 o'clock to Morrow.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1776

The Committee of claims reported, that there is due,

To James Chambers the sum of 25.8 dollars for his expences from Cambridge.

To Judah Alden 50 dollars, advanced on Account of expences in attending the French gentlemen.[1]

Ordered, That the above be paid.

Resolved, That General Schuyler be directed to have Brigadier General Prescot, lately made prisoner by the continental forces in Canada, taken into custody, and him safely and securely kept until the further orders of this Congress.

Resolved, That a copy of the above be sent immediately to General Schuyler, and that the general be informed by letter of the reasons which induced the Congress to give such orders.

The Committee of claims reported, that there is due to Egbert Dumond's account of expences in bringing the prisoners, taken at St. John's, from Kingston, in New York government, to Lancaster, in Pensylvania, and are of opinion that there is due to Egbert Dumond the sum of £872.6.8 Pensylvania currency being 2,326.2 dollars.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

[1] Penet and de Pliarne.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the Committee on the petition of Captains Paddock and Coffin, and after debate,

Resolved, That the prayer of said petition be not granted.[1]

The committee on the state of New York brought in their report, which was read.

The report of Captain Motte, with regard to the disposition of the officers taken prisoners at St. John's, was laid before Congress, and read.

The Committee, to whom the Report on Lord Stirling's letters was recommitted, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration, ||the Congress thereupon came to the following resolutions:|| was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That the president acquaint his lordship, that the Congress has provided against the inconvenience of vexatious arrests of the men inlisting in the continental service.

Resolved, That the barracks in the colony of New Jersey be prepared for the reception of such of the batallions as may not be in readiness to proceed to New York, and that the ministerial troops or prisoners at present occupying them, be accommodated in the said colony, in such manner, as the committee of safety for said colony, shall think most prudent and convenient.

That Mr. Lowry, the commissary, be directed to supply the said batallions with stockings, and that the delegates for the colony of New Jersey, transmit to Lord Stirling six dozen printed copies of the articles of war.

That considering not only the defenceless condition of the colony of New Jersey, for want of Ammunition in

[1] See *Journals*, II, 445, 463.

case of an hostile invasion of that Colony, but the evident want of the assistance of those batallions for the defence of New York, where an attack of the enemy is most probably to be apprehended, a requisition be made by the Congress to the committee of safety of Pensylvania, of four hundred weight of powder for the said batallions.

That the same fire wood, camp equipage, and barrack utensils be allowed to each of the New Jersey battalions as are allowed to the batallion raised in Pensylvania.

That the hundred stand of arms supplied by the colony of New York for the New Jersey batallions, be paid for by the convention of New Jersey; and that in order to enable the said convention to make such payment, as well as to furnish such of the men belonging to the said batallions, as are yet unprovided with arms, the farther sum of 1,000 dollars be advanced to the said convention; and that the price of the arms be deducted out of the wages of the privates belonging to the said batallions.

That Lord Stirling be directed to seize and secure all the ammunition and warlike stores belonging to the enemy, which now are or hereafter may be imported into the colony of New Jersey, and keep them till he shall receive the orders of Congress respecting them: And further, that he do, from time to time, give aid and protection to all the friends of America, who may be employed in importing into the said colony, ammunition, or other commodities not prohibited by the association and resolves of this Congress.

Whereas it has been represented to this Congress, that divers honest and well-meaning, but uninformed people in these colonies, have, by the art and address of ministerial agents, been deceived and drawn into erroneous opinions respecting the American cause, and the probable issue of the present contest:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the different committees, and other friends to American liberty, in the said colonies, to treat all such persons with kindness and attention; to consider them as the inhabitants of a country determined to be free, and to view their errors as proceeding rather from want of information than want of virtue or public spirit; to explain to them the origin, nature and extent of the present controversy; to acquaint them with the fate of the numerous petitions presented to his Majesty, as well by assemblies as Congresses, for reconciliation and redress of grievances: and that the last from this Congress, humbly requesting the single favour of being heard, like all the others, has proved unsuccessful; to unfold to them the various arts of administration to ensnare and enslave us, and the manner in which we have been cruelly driven to defend, by arms, those very rights, liberties and estates, which we and our forefathers had so long enjoyed unmolested in the reigns of his present Majesty's predecessors. And it is hereby recommended to all conventions and assemblies in these colonies, liberally to distribute among the people, the proceedings of this and the former Congress, the late speeches of the great patriots in both houses of parliament relative to American grievances, and such other pamphlets and papers as tend to elucidate the merits of the American cause, the Congress being fully persuaded that the more our right to the enjoyment of our ancient liberties and privileges is examined, the more just and necessary our present opposition to ministerial tyranny will appear.

And, with respect to all such unworthy Americans, as, regardless of their duty to their Creator, their country and their posterity, have taken part with our oppressors, and, influenced by the hope or possession of ignominious rewards, strive to recommend themselves to the bounty

of administration, by misrepresenting and traducing the conduct and principles of the friends of American liberty, and opposing every measure formed for its preservation and security,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the different Assemblies, conventions and committees or councils of safety in the United Colonies, by the most speedy and effectual measures, to frustrate the mischievous machinations, and restrain the wicked practices of these men: And it is the opinion of this Congress, that they ought to be disarmed, and the more dangerous among them, either kept in safe custody, or bound with sufficient sureties to their good behaviour.

And, in order that the said assemblies, conventions, committees or councils of safety, may be enabled, with greater ease and facility to carry this resolution into execution,

Resolved, That they be authorized to call to their aid, whatever continental troops, stationed in or near their respective colonies, may be conveniently spared from their more immediate duty; and the commanding officers of such troops, are hereby directed to afford the said Assemblies, conventions, committees or councils of safety, all such assistance in executing this resolution, as they may require, and which, consistent with the good of the service, may be supplied.

Resolved, That all detachments of continental troops, which may be ordered on the business in the foregoing resolution mentioned, be, while so employed, under the direction and controul of the assemblies, conventions, committees or councils of safety aforesaid.

Resolved, That it be recommended to all the United Colonies, to aid each other (on request from their respec-

tive Assemblies, conventions, committees, or councils of safety and county committees) on every emergency, and to cultivate, cherish and increase the present happy and necessary union, by a continual interchange of mutual good offices.

And whereas the execrable barbarity, with which this unhappy war has been conducted on the part of our enemies, such as burning our defenceless towns and villages, exposing their inhabitants, without regard to sex or age, to all the miseries which loss of property, the rigor of the season, and inhuman devastation can inflict, exciting domestic insurrections and murders, bribing the savages to desolate our frontiers, and casting such of us as the fortune of war has put in their power, into gaols, there to languish in irons and in want, compelling the inhabitants of Boston, in violation of the treaty, to remain confined within the town, exposed to the insolence of the soldiery, and other enormities, at the mention of which decency and humanity will ever blush, may justly provoke the inhabitants of these colonies to retaliate.

Resolved, That it be recommended to them, to continue mindful that humanity ought to distinguish the brave, that cruelty should find no admission among a free people, and to take care that no page in the annals of America be stained by a recital of any action which justice or Christianity may condemn, and to rest assured that whenever retaliation may be necessary or tend to their security, this Congress will undertake the disagreeable task.

Resolved, That the Assemblies, conventions, or committees, or councils of safety, be requested forthwith to transmit to this Congress, copies of all the petitions, memorials, and remonstrances, which have been, by the respective colonies, presented to the throne, or either

house of parliament, since the year 1762, and that they also inform the Congress, whether any and what answers were given to them.[1]

To Majr. Genl Howe

a Declaration by the Representatives of the United colonies in Congress

When necessity compelled us to take arms against Great Britain in defence of our just rights, we thought it a circumstance of ~~some~~ comfort that our enemy was brave and civilized. it is the happiness of modern times that the evils of necessary war are softened by refinement of manners and sentiment, and that an enemy is an object of vengeance in arms and in the field only. it is with pain we hear that mr Allen and ~~eleven~~ others taken with him while fighting bravely in their country's cause, are sent to Britain in *irons*, to be *punished* for pretended treasons; treasons ~~too~~ created by one of those very laws whose obligation we deny, and mean to contest by the sword. this question ~~is~~ will not ~~to~~ be decided by reeking vengeance on a few ~~brave men who unfortunately wretched~~ helpless captives, but by ~~subduing conquering your enemy~~[2] ~~in the fields of glory encounters of virtue~~ atchieving success in the fields of war, ~~by~~ and gathering there those laurels which grow for the superior brave ~~alone~~. in this light we view the object between us; in this line we have hitherto conducted ourselves for it's attainment, to those ~~of your~~ who, bearing your arms, have fallen into our hands, we have ~~extended~~ afforded every comfort for which captivity ~~will admit~~ and misfortune called ~~for~~. ~~enlargement upon parole has been admitted this they will do us the justice to testify~~ enlargement and comfortable subsistence have been extended to ~~both~~ officers and men, ~~trusting to the ties of honour~~ and their ~~bondage~~ restraint is a ~~bondage~~ restraint of honour only. should you think proper in these days to revive antient ~~barbarity of antient ages~~, barbarism, and again disgrace our nature with the practise of human sacrifice the fortune of war has put into our ~~hands~~ power subjects for multiplied retaliation. to them, to you, and to the world we declare they

[1] These resolutions were printed in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, 4 January, 1776, and in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 11 January, 1776.

[2] For these words were substituted in the draft "Vanquishing our enemy", but they were also stricken out.

shall not be wretched, unless their imprudence or your example shall oblige us to make them so; but we declare also that their lives shall ~~compel~~ teach our enemies to respect the rights of nations. we have ordered Brigadier General Prescot to be bound in irons, and ~~to be~~ confined in close jail, there to experience ~~sufferings similar to those~~ corresponding miseries with those which shall be inflicted on mr Allen. his life shall answer for that ~~life~~ of ~~mr.~~ Allen, and the lives of as many others for those ~~sent with him~~ of the brave men captivated with him. we deplore the event which shall oblige us to ~~retaliate~~ shed blood for blood, and shall resort to ~~it~~ retaliation but as the means of stopping the progress of butchery. ~~this~~ it is a duty we owe to those ~~who~~ engaged in ~~support of our~~ the cause of their country, to assure them that if any unlucky circumstance, baffling the efforts of their bravery, shall put them in the power of their enemies, ~~their lives shall be warranted from sacrifice by the lives of the prisoners in our hands.~~ we will use the pledges in our hands to warrant their lives from sacrifice.[1]

Resolved, That Mr. [Josiah] Bartlett be appointed one of the Committee of Claims, in the room of Mr. ~~Cushing~~ [John] Langdon, and Mr. S[amuel] Adams in the room of Mr. [Thomas] Cushing, who have leave of absence.

||Adjourned to ten o'clock to Morrow.||

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1776

A letter from General Washington, dated 25 December, inclosing a letter from General Howe, and accompanied with sundry papers, was laid before Congress, and read.[2]

The Committee of Safety [for Pennsylvania,] having recommended sundry gentlemen for field officers of the four batallions ordered to be raised in Pensylvania, the

[1] The draft of this paper, in the writing of Thomas Jefferson, is in the Jefferson Papers, in the Library of Congress, Fifth Series, X, No. 6. A fair copy, also in the writing of Jefferson, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 58, folio 251. This latter is endorsed: "Motion of Col. Harrison Jany 2, 1776, postponed."

[2] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 373.

Congress proceeded to the election ||of colonels, and the ballots being taken and examined, the following gentlemen were chosen:||

and Arthur St. Clair, Esq. was elected colonel of 2d batallion in Pa. John Shea, Esq. colonel of the 3d ditto. Anthony Wayne, Esq. colonel of the 4th ditto. Robert Magaw, Esq. colonel of the 5th ditto.[1]

The Congress, taking into consideration the report of the Secret Committee, ~~which was in part~~ and thereupon came to the following resolutions.

Resolved, That the following goods and stores ought to be imported as soon as possible, for the use of the United Colonies, viz.

60,000 striped blankets.

120,000 yards of 6-4 broad cloth, the colours to be brown and blue, from 3/ to 6/ ster. per yard.

10,000 yards of do. of different colours, for facing, @ 4/.

3,000 pieces of duffils, or some such cloth.

100 m. sorted needles.

50 m. do. none fine.

10 m. do. for sail cloth.

3,000 pieces of Raven's duck.

3,000 pieces Ticklenburghs.

1,500 pieces oznabrugs.

1,000 pieces vitrey.

4,000 pieces Hamburg dowlas.

20,000 stand of arms.

300 tons of lead.

1,000,000 flints.

1,500 boxes of tin, and iron wire properly sorted for it.

[1] The letter of recommendation is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 58, folio 317. The names given were: Anthony Wayne, Samuel John Atlee, John Shee, Arthur St. Clair, Daniel Broadhead, Robert Magaw, Lambert Cadwalader, and Francis Johnston.

Medicines, surgeons' instruments, lint and bandages, to the amount of £2,000 sterling.

500 sheets of Copper of different sorts.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be empowered and directed to pursue the most effectual measures for importing the above articles.[1]

Resolved, That the farther consideration of this report be postponed.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Captain Edward Motte, for expences, &c. in conducting the prisoners taken at St. John's, from Kingston, in the colony of New York, to Lancaster, in the province of Pensylvania, a ballance of £137.17.9 being 367.7 dollars.

To Robert Erwin, wagon-master, for carriage of cloathing and medicines to Dobb's ferry and to Cambridge, £83.9.7 being 222.6 dollars.

Ordered, That the above be paid.

The Committee on the state of New York, brought in a farther report, which being taken into consideration, was agreed to as follows:

Whereas a majority of the inhabitants of Queen's County, in the colony of New York, being incapable of resolving to live and die freemen, and being more disposed to quit their liberties than part with the little proportion of their property necessary to defend them, have deserted the American cause, by refusing to send deputies as usual to the convention of that colony; and avowing by a public declaration, an unmanly design of remaining inactive spectators of the present contest, vainly flattering themselves, perhaps, that should Providence declare for our enemies, they may purchase their

[1] See *Journals*, III, 453.

mercy and favor at an easy rate; and, on the other hand, if the war should terminate to the advantage of America, that then they may enjoy, without expence of blood or treasure, all the blessings resulting from that liberty, which they, in the day of trial, had abandoned, and in defence of which, many of their more virtuous neighbours and countrymen had nobly died:

And although the want of public spirit, observable in these men, rather excites pity than alarm, there being little danger to apprehend either from their prowess or example, yet it being reasonable, that those who refuse to defend their country, should be excluded from its protection, and be prevented from doing it injury:

Resolved, That all such persons in Queen's county, aforesaid, as voted against sending deputies to the present convention of New York, and named in a list of delinquents in Queen's county, published by the convention of New York, be put out of the protection of the United Colonies, and that all trade and intercourse with them cease; that none of the inhabitants of that county be permitted to travel or abide in any part of these United Colonies, out of their said county, without a certificate from the convention or committee of safety of the colony of New York, ||setting forth,|| that such inhabitant is a friend to the American cause, and not of the number of those who voted against sending deputies to the said convention; and that such of the said inhabitants as shall be found out of the said county, without such certificate, be apprehended and imprisoned three months.

Resolved, That no attorney or lawyer ought to commence, prosecute, or defend any action at law, of any kind, for any of the said inhabitants of Queen's county, who voted against sending deputies to the convention, as aforesaid; and such attorneys or lawyers as shall con-

travene this resolution, are enemies to the American cause, and ought to be treated accordingly.

Resolved, That the convention or committee of safety of the colony of New York be requested to continue publishing, for a month, in all their gazettes or news papers, the names of all such of the inhabitants of Queen's county, as voted against sending deputies; and to give certificates, in the manner before recommended, to such others of the said inhabitants, as are friends to American liberty.

And it is recommended to all conventions, committees of safety, and others, to be diligent in executing the above Resolutions.

Resolved, That Colonel Nathaniel Heard, of Woodbridge, in the colony of New Jersey, taking with him five or six hundred minute men, under discreet officers, do march to the western part of Queen's county, and that Colonel Waterbury, of Stanford, in the colony of Connecticut, with the like number of minute men, march to the eastern side of said county; that they confer together, and endeavour to enter the said county on the same day; that they proceed to disarm every person in the said county, who voted against sending deputies to the said convention, and cause them to deliver up their arms and ammunition on oath, and that they take and confine in safe custody, till further orders, all such as shall refuse compliance.

That they apprehend and secure, till further orders, the persons named as principal men among the disaffected in the said county, in a summons for their appearance before the convention of New York, issued the 12 of December last, viz.

Of Jamaica township, Captain Benjamin Whitehead, Charles Arden, Joseph French, Esq^{r} Johannes Polhemus.

Of Newtown, Nathaniel Moore, John Moore, Sen^{r}

Samuel Hallet, John Moore, Jun. William Weyman. John Shoals, Jeromus Rapalje.

Of Flushing, John Willet.

Of Hamstead, Justice Gilbert Van Wyck, Daniel Kissam, Esq. of Cow neck, Captain Jacob Mott, Thomas Cornell, of Rockaway, Gabriel G. Ludlow,[1] Richard Hewlet, Captain Charles Hicks, Dr. [Samuel] Martin, Justice Samuel Clowes.

Of Oyster bay, Justice Thomas Smith, of hog island, Justice John Hewlet, Captain George Weeks, Dr. David Brooks, Justice John Townsend,

And all such other persons who shall be found in arms, or who shall oppose the carrying the above resolutions into effect, as they the said Colonel Heard or Colonel Waterbury may think prudent to detain.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the said Colonel Heard and Colonel Waterbury, to execute the business entrusted to them by the foregoing resolutions, with all possible despatch, secresy, order, and humanity.

Resolved, That the committee of safety of the colony of Pensylvania, be requested to furnish Colonel Heard with 200 lbs. of powder.

Resolved, That the sum of 500 dollars be forthwith transmitted, with certified copies of these resolutions, to each of them, the said Colonel Heard and Colonel Waterbury, and that they, on their return, report to this Congress, a true state of their expenditure and proceedings.

~~The committee of safety of Pensylvania, having recommended sundry gentlemen for lieutenant colonels of the four battalions ordered to be raised in said colony,~~

~~Resolved, That the same be taken into consideration to Morrow.~~

[1] In Force, *American Archives*, Fourth Series, IV, 406, this name is given Gabriel C. Ludlow.

A letter from the committee of Frederick, in Maryland, brought by the officer who had the charge of bringing down Connolly and his associate, was laid before Congress and read.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee of safety of Pensylvania, to carry into execution the resolution of Congress for confining said Connolly, and his associates, in the gaol of Philadelphia, and that they take their examinations.

Adjourned to 10 o'clock to Morrow.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1776

~~Congress proceeded to the choice of lieutenants~~

Resolved, That ~~it be recommended~~ an additional batallion be raised in the county of Cumberland, in the colony of Pensylvania, to consist of the same number of men and officers, and to have the same pay and allowance, as the others raised in said colony.

Resolved, That one company of each of the five batallions last ordered to be raised in Pensylvania, consist of expert rifflemen.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee of safety of Pensylvania, to see the foregoing resolutions carried into execution.

Resolved, That, in all elections of officers by Congress, where more than one are elected on the same day, to commands of the same rank, they shall take rank of each other according to their election, and the entry of their names in the minutes, and their commissions shall be numbered to shew their priority.

The Congress then proceeded to the election of lieutenant colonels for the batallions ordered to be raised in

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Pensylvania, and the ballots being taken and examined, the following gentlemen were chosen: viz.

Lambert Cadwallader, William Allen, Jun[r] Francis Johns[t]on, Joseph Penrose.[1]

The Committee of Claims report, that there is due,

To James Whitehead, for provisions for the prisoners taken on board the *Rebecca and Mary*, the sum of 64 dollars.

To the committee of New Brunswick, per accounts rendered, the sum of 214.9/10 dollars, to be paid to William Livingston, Esq[r] and by him forwarded to the said committee.

To Furman and Hunt, of Trenton, for provisions, horse hire, &c. the sum of 68.2/10 dollars.

To the committee of Inspection and observation of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, for 187,046 flints, by them purchased, agreeable to the order of Congress, the sum of 737 dollars.

To sundry persons, per list, for signing the continental bills of credit, the sum of 1,165.7/10 dollars, and that an order be given to the treasurers for the payment of the same, agreeable to the said list.

[1]In this instance the process of election can be followed. On January 3d the Committee of Safety of Philadelphia notified Congress that it had selected the following for recommendation to Congress as suitable to fill the offices of Lieutenant Colonels: viz: Lambert Cadwalader, Joseph Wood, Francis Johnston, Joseph Penrose, William Allen, Thomas Hartly, William Irwin and Daniel Broadhead. *Papers of the Continental Congress*, no. 58, folio 319. The actual votes in Congress were thrown for a longer list of candidates, presumably new names being suggested by members, as follows:

Cadwal[a]der	21	Gurney	8	Hawsicker	6
Wood	12	Beatty	2	Ross	1
Johnson	20	Hartly	17	Landrum	2
Penrose	20	Allen	20	Dean	4
Irwine	15	Parry	10	Nagle	4
Collier	3	Broadhead	11	Bicker	2
Withington	1	McPherson	7	Holler	1

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To the committee of Frederick Town, Maryland, for the expences incurred by Connolly, Cameron and Smith, during their confinement, the sum of 74 dollars, and that the same be paid to the delegates of Maryland.

Ordered, That the said accounts be paid accordingly.

Resolved, That a commissary be appointed to provide the three companies ordered to Northampton, in Virginia, with rations while on their march, and during their stay in that country.

Resolved, That the appointment of a commissary be deferred till to Morrow.

The Congress resuming the consideration of the report of the Committee on the state of New York: after debate,

Resolved, That the same be postponed till to Morrow, and that the delegates of New York be desired to request the attendance of the Gentlemen sent to Congress by the convention of their colony.[1]

Resolved, That Major Preston have liberty to chuse the place of his residence, consistent with former resolutions of Congress, and that the president take his parole.

The Congress proceeded to the election of Majors, when the following persons were chosen.

Joseph Moore
George Nagle
Henry Bicker
Nicholas Hausicker

The Committee appointed to consider what allowance ought to be made to officers who are prisoners, brought in their report:[2]

[1] The New York committee was composed of Abraham Brasher, Thomas Palmer, and Captain John Grenell.

[2] "The Congress wish to know in what manner the prisoners of war at Trenton live, who supplies them, and upon what terms. The reason of the enquiry is, that very extravagant claims are made on this head from other quarters, and we aim to render the public burthens as light as possible." *Richard Smith to the Committee of Safety of New Jersey*, 4 January, 1776.

Ordered, That the same be taken into consideration on Saturday next.

Adjourned to 10 o'clock to Morrow.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1776

A vacancy happening in the first of the Pensylvania batallions, by the promotion of Captain Allen,[1] the Congress proceeded to the election of a Captain to supply the vacancy, ||and the ballots being taken,|| when Benjamin Davis, oldest lieutenant in said batallion, was elected.

Resolved, That the sum of ten thousand dollars, be struck, ~~and on the inspection of the gentlemen appointed to superintend the printing and signed, to lie in the treasury~~ for the ~~sole~~ purpose of exchanging ragged and torn bills of the continental currency; That the bills, making this sum, be of the same denominations, printed under the inspection of the same persons, and signed and numbered by the same signers, as the last emission, and that they be lodged in the treasury, to be applied to the sole purpose aforesaid.

Resolved, That all committees, and others, who have had publick money put into their hands, lay upon the table, an account of the expenditure of the same.

The Committee appointed to consider the letter of General Washington, dated the 18 December, and the enclosures, brought in a report upon that part, which relates to Mr. James Lovell, who has long been, and is still, detained a close prisoner in Boston, by order of General Howe, ~~commander of the ministerial troops there~~ which being taken into consideration, was agreed to, and is as follows:

[1] William Allen, Jr.

That it appears to your Committee, that the said Mr. Lovell hath, for years past, been an able advocate for the liberties of America and of mankind; that by his letter to General Washington, which is a part of said enclosures, he exhibits so striking an instance of disinterested patriotism, as strongly recommends him to the particular notice of this Continent.

Your Committee therefore submit the following resolutions, to the consideration of the Congress.

Resolved, That Mr. James Lovell, an inhabitant of Boston, now held a close prisoner there, by order of General Howe, has discovered, under the severest trials, the warmest attachment to public liberty, and an inflexible fidelity to his country; that by his late letter to General Washington, he has given the strongest evidence of disinterested publick affection, in refusing to listen to terms offered for his relief, till he could be informed by his countrymen that they were compatible with their safety and honor.

Resolved, That it is deeply to be regretted that a British general can be found degenerate enough so ignominiously and cruelly to treat a citizen, who is so eminently virtuous:

Resolved, That it be an instruction to General Washington to make an offer of Governor Skene in exchange for the said Mr. Lovell and his family.

Resolved, That General Washington be desired to embrace the first opportunity which may offer, of giving some office to Mr. Lovell equal to his abilities, and which the public service may require.

Ordered, That a copy of the foregoing resolves be transmitted to the General as speedily as possible.

Resolved, That the president write to General Wash-

ington, and desire him ~~after consulting the general officers~~ to inform Congress, what rank the aids-de-camp of the general officers should have in the army of the United Colonies.[1]

The Committee of claims reported, that there is due to Adam Fischer, for expences attending his conducting Connolly and Cameron from Frederick, in Maryland, to Philadelphia, and his charges back again for himself and men, the sum of 156 dollars.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

The Congress having conferred with the gentlemen sent to Congress by the Convention of New York, resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on the state of that Colony, and the same was agreed to; and is as follows:

Resolved, That for the reasons contained in the papers hereunto annexed, this Committee are of opinion, that no farther fortifications be erected at Martler's Rock, on Hudson's river, and that a point of land at Puplopen's kill, on the said river, ought without delay to be effectually fortified.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Convention, or in their recess, to the committee of safety, of New York, to carry into execution the above resolution, ~~by erecting an earth battery at the place aforesaid in the most expeditious manner, and upon the most reasonable terms.~~

Resolved, That the delegates of New Jersey and Connecticut be directed to take the necessary steps for carrying into execution the resolutions of Congress passed on Wednesday last, respecting the inhabitants of Queen's county.

[1] This letter is in the Washington Papers, *Letters to Washington*, 90, folio 55.

A memorial from the inhabitants of the town of Newport was presented to Congress, and read:

Ordered, That the same be referred for consideration till to Morrow.

Resolved, That Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine be added to the committee on General Schuyler's letters.

Adjourned to 10 o'clock to Morrow.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1776

Information being given to Congress, that a quantity of powder was arrived at ||Great-|| Egg Harbour; on board the sloop *Sally*, of which 29 bl. a part was addressed to Congress by Mr. Parsons, ~~the like quantity~~ a part consigned to Mr. [Pelatiah] Webster and others in Philadelphia, ~~besides a quantity,~~ and a part to another gentleman ||in said city:||

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to get the powder addressed to Congress, brought to Philadelphia, and to purchase, for the use of the United Colonies, the other quantities of powder.

Resolved, That one ton of the powder arrived, be delivered to the committee for fitting out armed vessels, for the use of said vessels.

A letter from the committee of Lancaster, dated 3 January, ||was received,|| and read:[1]

Also, a letter from ~~Lewis Lhuilier de Rozierre~~ an officer in Lisbon, dated October 23, 1775:

Resolved, That these letters, as well as the last received from Lancaster, and those formerly received from ~~Major Bernard~~ Lisbon, be referred to the committee of Correspondence.

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 69, I, folio 55.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the memorial from the inhabitants of Newport, and the papers accompanying it; and, thereupon, ||came to the following resolution:||

Resolved, That the said memorial be referred to the consideration of the general Assembly of the colony of Rhode Island.

The Committee, ~~appointed to fit out armed vessels, brought in~~ to whom it was referred to consider how the shares of prizes, allotted to the captors, ought to be divided between the officers and men, brought in their report, which, being taken into consideration, was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That the Commander in chief have one twentieth ||part|| of the said allotted prize-money, taken by any ship or ships, armed vessel or vessels, under his orders and command.

That the captain of any single ship or armed vessel, have two twentieth parts for his share, but, if more ships or armed vessels be in company when a prize is taken, then the said two twentieth parts to be divided amongst all said captains.

That the captains of marines, lieutenants of the ships or armed vessels, and masters thereof, share together, and have three twentieth parts divided among them equally, of all prizes taken when they are in company.

That the lieutenants of marines, surgeons, chaplains, pursers, boatswains, gunners, carpenters, the masters' mates, and the secretary of the fleet, share together, and have two twentieth parts and one half of one twentieth part divided amongst them, equally of all prizes taken when they are in company.

That the following petty warrant and petty officers, viz. (allowing for each ship, six midshipmen; for each brig-

antine, four midshipmen, and each sloop, two midshipmen, one captain's clerk, one surgeon's mate, one steward, one sailmaker, one cooper, one armourer, two boatswain's mates, two gunner's mates, two carpenter's mates, one cook, one cockswain, two serjeants of marines for each ship, and one surgeon for each brig and sloop) have three twentieth parts divided among them equally, and when a prize is taken by any ship or vessel on board of which the Commander in chief is, or in company, then the Commander in chief's cook or cockswain to be added to this allotment, and have their equal shares with these last mentioned.

That the remaining eight twentieths, and one half of a twentieth, be divided among the rest of the ship or ship's companies, as it may happen, share and share alike.

That no officer or man have any share but such as are actually on board their several vessels, when any prize or prizes are taken, excepting only such as may have been ordered on board any other prizes before taken, or sent away by his or their commanding officers.

The Committee on General Schuyler's letters, &c. brought in their report, ||which was read:||

Ordered, That the consideration thereof be postponed to Monday next.

A letter from General Schuyler, dated 30 December, enclosing copies of letters from General Montgomery and General Wooster, being received, were read.[1]

Adjourned to Monday next at 10 o'Clock.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 1776

A letter from General Schuyler, dated 26 December, enclosing a copy of a letter from General Montgomery,

[1]The letter of Schuyler, dated December 31, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 153, I, folio 374. The letter of Wooster is on folio 378.

dated 5 December, and a list of the ordnance sent to Cambridge; also a letter from the committee of Baltimore, enclosing an affidavit of Capt. Horn, being received, were read.[1]

The Congress, taking into consideration the report of the Committee on General Schuyler's letters, thereupon came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That shipwrights be immediately sent from New York and Philadelphia to General Schuyler, or the Commander in chief of the forces at Ticonderoga, to be employed by him in constructing a number of batteaus, not exceeding one hundred, for transporting troops, with their baggage, from that place into Canada, whenever it may be found necessary.

That a sufficient number of suitable men be engaged for rowing said batteaus; and that a large quantity of provisions and stores be sent this winter to fort George.

That General Schuyler be desired to have the river St. Lawrence, above and below Quebec, well explored, and to determine upon proper places, for opposing, by armed boats or otherwise, any attempts of the enemy to penetrate that country by the river; and that he give order for constructing speedily as many such boats as he shall judge necessary.

That two shipwrights be immediately sent from Philadelphia, to be employed under the direction of the committee of inspection at Albany, in constructing scows for facilitating the passage over Hudson's river.

Resolved, That the provisions heretofore made for an hospital in the northern army, when it was more numerous than it is now, is sufficient.

[1] Schuyler's letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 153, I, folio 370. The letter from Baltimore is from Samuel Purviance, Jun., and is in No. 78, XVIII, folio 21. The affidavit of Captain John Horn is with it.

Resolved, That the convention of New York be desired to send three thousand bushels of salt, besides what General Schuyler hath already ordered to be brought to Ticonderoga.

Resolved, That the Governor of Connecticut, the general Assemblies of Massachusetts bay and New Hampshire, and the convention of New York, be wrote to forthwith, by the delegates of the said colonies respectively, to furnish General Schuyler with the account of money paid to any persons in the army under his command, specifying the names of those to whom the money was paid by their order.

Resolved, That the contract made by General Schuyler, to allow one twelfth part of a dollar per day, for billeting money to every one of the men, who reinlist in the northern army, until they can march to the place where provisions may be delivered to them, be made good.

Resolved, That the officers of the northern army, be accountable for such public stores issued to them, as may be lost through carelessness by their respective corps, and that the value thereof be deducted out of the pay of those who have embezzled or wasted the same.

Resolved, That this Congress does approve of the raising a batallion of Canadians, and of the appointment of James Livingston, Esq^{r} colonel thereof.

Resolved, That nine batallions, including that of Canadians under Colonel Livingston, be kept up and maintained the present year for the defence of Canada.

Resolved, That the first Pensylvania batallion, under Colonel Bull, and the second New Jersey batallion, under Colonel Maxwell, be ordered to march immediately to Albany, and there put themselves under the command of General Schuyler, and that the orders given for the

march of three companies of Colonel Bull's batallion to Accomack and Northampton be countermanded.

Resolved, That, to make up the rest of the batallions voted for the defence of Canada, that one batallion be raised in New Hampshire, one in Connecticut, and one in New York; that two batallions be formed out of the troops now in Canada, and that General Montgomery be desired to recommend proper persons for officers in said batallions; and that one of the five batallions, lately ordered to be raised in Pensylvania, be destined for Canada.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to devise ways and means for furnishing the batallions destined for Canada, with necessaries, and for expediting their march thither.

The members chosen, Mr. [William] Floyd, Mr. [Silas] Deane, and Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean.

Resolved, That the farther consideration of the report of the Committee be deferred till to Morrow.

Information being given to Congress, that about 57 tons of salt petre were arrived in Philadelphia, and about 15 tons of powder at New York, for sale:

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to treat for the purchase of the salt petre, and enquire how it may be ||most speedily|| manufactured into powder, and report to Congress.

That Mr. P[hilip] Livingston, Mr. [John] Alsop, Mr. [John] Jay, and Mr. [Francis] Lewis, be directed to purchase, on the best terms they can, for the use of the United Colonies, the powder arrived at New York, and forward the same, with all possible expedition, under guard, to the camp at Cambridge.

Resolved, That the convention or committee of safety of Maryland, be desired to order three companies of the

minute men in the service of that colony, to march immediately from thence to the counties of Accomack and Northampton, in Virginia, instead of the forces directed to go thither from Pensylvania, and to lay before Congress the accounts of their subsistence and pay, which shall be paid out of the continental treasury.

Resolved, That the committee of safety of Pensylvania be desired to send five hundred pounds weight of powder to the colony of Virginia, for the use of the forces to be employed in the counties of Accomack and Northampton.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1776

A letter from Mr. M[atthew] Tilghman, dated Annapolis, 5 January, with sundry enclosures, also a number of intercepted letters, being ||some despatches from Governor Franklin, and a letter from C. Skinner, which were intercepted, were|| laid before Congress, was read.[1]

Resolved, That a letter be written to Mr. Tilghman, informing him, that the *Hornet* and *Wasp* are under orders to sail to the capes of Delaware, and that such vessels, as are ready to sail, may take the benefit of that convoy.

Resolved, That the Committee for fitting out armed vessels, be directed to give orders to the captains of the *Hornet* and *Wasp*, to take under their convoy, such vessels as are ready to sail.

The Committee of claims reported, that there is due,

To Michael Conolly, for expenses in conducting Captain John Livingston and Lieutenant Anstruther from Kingston to Lancaster, the sum of 250 dollars.

To Richard Butler, for necessaries furnished to five Indians, the sum of 49 3/10 dollars.

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XXII, folio 5.

To Joseph Cowperthwaite, the sum of 419 6/16 dollars, for expenses in conducting cash to Cambridge.

||*Ordered*, That the above be paid.||

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to enquire into the conduct of the Officers who are prisoners, and the manner in which they are subsisted at present, and report thereon.

The members chosen, Mr. W[illiam] Livingston, Mr. [Eliphalet] Dyer, and Mr. [William] Floyd.

Ordered, That a certified copy of the intercepted letter of Mr. Cortland Skinner, be sent to the committee of safety of the colony of New Jersey:

That an order issue to Lord Stirling, to take with him a sufficient force, and immediately apprehend and keep in safe custody ||the said|| Cortland Skinner, of Amboy, till farther orders from this Congress.

That he carry said Cortland Skinner before the committee of safety of the colony of New Jersey, for examination.

That the committee of safety be desired to transmit his examination to Congress.

Resolved, That the militia raised in the counties of Orange and Ulster, in the colony of New York, by order of this Congress, for the support of the fort lately erected on Hudson's river, be discharged, except those stationed in the fort, who shall also be discharged whenever other troops arrive there to supply their places; and that it be recommended to the committee of safety of the colony of New York, to see that this Resolve be carried into execution.

Resolved, That 500,000 dollars be sent to the pay master general, for the use of the army in the Massachusetts bay.

That the delegates for Pensylvania be directed to count

and forward the same, with all convenient speed, under a guard of an officer and two men.

The Congress resuming the consideration of the report of the committee on General Schuyler's letters, thereupon came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That Colonel V. Schaick, Lieutenant Colonel Yates, and Major Gansevoort, be continued in the service of the United Colonies, and that they take the command of the batallion to be levied in the colony of New York, for the service in Canada.

That Captain Lamb be appointed commander of the artillery in the northern department, with the rank of Major, and that he be allowed fifty dollars per month, from the first day of the present month, as a reward for his activity and spirited conduct in the last campaign.

Resolved, That no postage be paid for any letters to or from private soldiers, while engaged in actual service in the defence of the United Colonies; and that such letters be franked by some person authorised for that purpose, by the commanding officer of the department.

Resolved, That a letter be written to General Schuyler by the president, informing him, that it is the opinion of Congress, he should proceed to have the conduct of Lieutenant Halsey enquired into, by a court martial, giving him previous notice to appear in his own defence, and that such sentence should be passed on him, as such court martial shall think just, and if the said Lieutenant Halsey shall decline to submit his conduct to such examination and sentence, that then all arrears of pay due to him be stopped; to enable him to give discharges to such officers as have quitted the service; to assure him, that we have great confidence in his attention to the public interest, and rely, that he will give to the proper officers in his department, such orders, as will procure indemni-

fication to the public, for any embezzlement or waste of its stores, or monies; to empower him to remit to such of the troops, raised in the province of New York, as may re-inlist, any right we may have to stop wages for under cloths delivered to them; to desire he will communicate to Mr. Price the sense this Congress have of his friendly offices to General Montgomery, in favour of the American cause; to return him our thanks for the same, and assure him, immediate measures shall be taken for replacing the monies he has advanced; to notify to Colonel Easton our approbation of his late services, and that we shall retain in our minds a just sense of them.

Resolved, That General Schuyler be directed to appoint Mr. J[ohn] M'Pherson, ~~to the rank of~~ a Major in one of the batallions ordered to be raised out of the troops in Canada.

Resolved, That a conductor of artillery, a superintendent of the arms, a barrack master, and store keeper, be appointed to the northern army, and that General Schuyler be desired to recommend proper persons to the Congress for those offices.

Resolved, That the deputy pay master general have liberty to appoint under him, two assistant pay masters, who shall each receive 26 2/3 dollars per month, for their trouble and services.

Resolved, That all the officers and soldiers in the Northern department be paid in person by the deputy pay master general, or the assistants to be appointed by him in consequence of the foregoing resolve.

Resolved, That a communication should be forthwith opened between Skenesborough and fort Ann, and that Wood creek be cleared for that purpose.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee of safety of the province of New York, to appoint proper

persons to enquire into the propriety and practicability of obstructing or lessening the depth of water in the narrows, or in any other place at the entrance of New York, or of any way of fortifying that pass, so as to prevent the entrance of the enemy; and also to enquire whether the depth of water in Hudson's river, below the battery, may not easily be lessened, so as to prevent large ships passing up, and to make an estimate of the expence, and report their proceedings in the premises immediately to Congress.

Resolved, That to Morrow be assigned for the choice of two Brigadiers general, viz. one for the army in Massachusetts bay, and the other for the army in the northern department.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1776

A letter from Rachel Stille, with an account of expences for the subsistence of officers, was laid before Congress, and read:

Ordered, That the same be referred to the committee appointed on the subsistence ||conduct|| of officers.

Resolved, That the Commissioners for Indian affairs, in the northern department, be directed to pay to the Rev. Mr. Wheelock 500 dollars, agreeable to a resolution of Congress, passed the 12 day of July last.

The Committee appointed to devise ways and means for furnishing ||facilitating the march of|| the batallions destined for Canada, brought in their report, which was agreed to, and is as follows:

That before the batallion commanded by Colonel Bull can march for Canada, the following officers ought to be appointed, to wit: Three first lieutenants, eight second lieutenants, one ensign, and one quarter master, and the

following articles provided: to wit 688 caps, 688 pair mittens, 688 pair stockings, 688 pair leggings, 688 pair shoes, 688 haversacks, 688 slings for fire locks, 1,200 shirts, 688 waistcoats, 500 pair of breeches, 300 blankets, 64 pitching axes, and 9 baggage waggons.

That before Colonel Maxwell's batallion will be fit to march to said province, the following articles ought to be provided, to wit: 688 haversacks, 688 cartouch boxes and cross belts, 688 Tomhawks, 64 pitching axes, and 9 baggage waggons.

That both batallions be paid up to the first day of February next.

That the batallions should march by companies, and that they should follow each other at the distance of one day's march; that the quarter masters and commissaries should precede their respective batallions a few days, in order to provide lodgings and provisions on the road, and that

The colonels be allowed six rations.

Lieutenant Colonels, five ditto.

Majors, four ditto.

Captains, three ditto, and the

Subaltern and staff officers, two ditto each, or money in lieu thereof.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee of safety of Pensylvania, to supply the Pensylvania batallion with such of the above articles as they have not already furnished, agreeable to former resolutions of Congress; and that all the articles furnished the men, more than those allowed in lieu of bounty, be deducted out of their pay.

Resolved, That Thomas Lowry be directed to provide the articles for the second New Jersey ||colonel Maxwell's|| batallion, and that all the articles furnished the men, more

than those allowed in lieu of bounty, be deducted out of their pay.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of Thomas Lowry, for the sum of 35,000 dollars, for the use of the batallions raised in New Jersey, he to be accountable for the same.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress proceeded to the election of two Brigadiers general, and the ballots being taken and examined, Joseph Fry, Esq[r] was elected brigadier general for the army in Massachusetts bay, Benedict Arnold, Esq[r], brigadier general for the army in the northern department.

The Committee of safety ||for Pennsylvania,|| having recommended a number of persons for field officers for the sixth Pensylvania batallion ||ordered to be raised in said colony,|| the Congress proceeded to the election, and the ballots being taken ||and examined,||

William Irwine, [Irvine] was elected Colonel,

Thomas Hartley, lieutenant Colonel,

James Dunlap [Dunlop], Major.

Resolved, That another batallion be raised in the colony of New Jersey, on the same terms as the other two raised in said colony.

Resolved, That the pay of the troops serving in, and destined for, Canada, be the same as that of the army at Cambridge; and that this pay commence to the Pensylvania and New Jersey batallions, from the time they set out on their march to Canada.

The Congress considering the great distance from Colonel Heard to Colonel Waterbury, the difficulty of co-operating with each other in their expedition into Queen's county on Long island; thereupon,

Resolved, That Lord Stirling be desired to furnish Colonel Heard with three companies under his command, who

are to join Colonel Heard with the minute men by him raised, and proceed, as soon as may be, on the expedition into Queen's county, for which Colonel Heard and Colonel Waterbury were appointed: and that Colonel Heard be desired immediately to send an express to Colonel Waterbury, with a copy of this resolution, and inform him that his service will not be required on this occasion.

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed to take into consideration the state of these colonies, and report as soon as possible what number of forces, ||in their opinion,|| will be necessary for the defence of the same.

The members chosen, Mr. [James] Duane, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, Mr. [William] Hooper, Mr. E[dward] Rutledge, and Mr. [James] Wilson.

Resolved, That the colony of North Carolina be supplied with one ton of powder by the Secret Committee.

The Committee of claims reported, that there is due, on account rendered by the committee of the upper district of Frederick county, in Maryland, the sum of £300.1.0= 800 1/10 dollars, of which Captain Cressap's company ought to be charged £214.2.8 and Captain Price's company, £29, the remainder to be charged to the Continent, the money to be paid to Daniel Hester.

That there is due to Furman and Hunt, for provisions, &c. furnished to prisoners, &c. the sum of £66.16.8= 178 2/10 dollars.

To William Shad, for his attendance as door keeper ||messenger|| to the 4th of December, 1775, the sum of £19.10=52 dollars.

Ordered, That the said accounts be paid.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1776

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention or committee of safety of New York, to endeavour to obtain a release of Lieutenant —— Tyley,[1] of Brigadier Wooster's regiment, now confined on board the *Asia* man of war, by exchanging for him an officer of the same rank of the British troops in ||our|| custody.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare instructions to the officers in the recruiting service.

The members chosen, Mr. [James] Wilson, Mr. [Eliphalet] Dyer, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison.

The Congress taking into consideration the report of the committee on the bills of credit, emitted by this Congress, thereupon came to the following resolution:

Whereas it appears to this Congress, that several evil disposed persons, in order to obstruct and defeat the efforts of the United Colonies, in the defence of their just rights, have attempted to depreciate the bills of credit emitted by the authority of this Congress,

Resolved, therefore, That if any person shall hereafter be so lost to all virtue and regard for his country, as to "refuse to receive said bills in payment," or obstruct or discourage the currency or circulation thereof, and shall be duly convicted by the committee of the city, county, or district, or in case of appeal from their decision, by the assembly, convention, council or committee of safety of the colony where he shall reside, such person shall be deemed, published, and treated as an enemy of his country, and precluded from all trade or intercourse with the inhabitants of these colonies.

[1] Edward Tilley.

Ordered, That the foregoing resolve be immediately published.[1]

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of the committee of safety of Pensylvania, for the sum of 6,000 Dollars, for the use of the first Pensylvania batallion, the said committee to be accountable for the same.

A Representation of the field officers of the Pensylvania batallions, setting forth the inconveniencies that will arise from the batallions consisting of seven batallion companies, was presented to Congress and read:[2]

Resolved, That the same be taken into consideration to Morrow.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1776

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Henry Dewson, for provisions to Captain Ross's company, the sum of £11 New York currency = 27 1/2 dollars.

The said committee report that they have had under their consideration an account exhibited by Colonel Turbott Francis, one of the Commissioners for Indian affairs for the northern department, of goods purchased for the treaty held with the Indians, at Albany, of his expences in attending the treaty, &c. amounting to the sum of £2,470 Pensylvania currency, including the sum of £242.13.4 New York currency, paid to Volkert P. Douw, Esq[r] in which account he credits Cash received of the continental treasurers, the sum of 6.666 2/3 dollars,

[1] This was printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 17 January, 1776.

[2] This representation, without date, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 58, folio 205. The signers were: Arthur St. Clair, John Shee, Anthony Wayne, Lambert Cadwalader, William Allen, Jr., Joseph Penrose, Joseph Wood and Henry Bicker.

equal to £2500.0.0, and two horses taken, to himself at cost, £42.15. That there is, therefore, a balance in his hands amounting to £72.15.0 = 194 dollars.

And by the same account it appears that Colonel Francis had left in the hands of Mr. Douw two matrasses, &c. about 15 gallons of wine, and some spirits, to be accounted for by him when sold. It also further appears that there remains on hand part of the goods purchased for the said treaty.

$9^1/_2$ p^r strouds
$1^1/_2$ p^r french blankets
$3^1/_2$ p^r striped do
46 Rose do
2 pieces of white Nap.

~~It is therefore the opinion of this committee,~~ That there is due to Volkert P. Douw Esq for expences attending the aforesaid treaty according to an acco^t rendered by him and examined by this committee (in which he credits the above mentioned sum of £242.13.4 and also credits cash received for boards which he had purchased for the Indians houses the sum of £15.6.2) the sum of £868.15.4 1/2 New York currency, there will then remain in his hands the Matrasses wine &c. and spirits before mentioned and some boards, which are not yet sold.

Ordered, That the above sums be paid to Henry Dewson, and Volkert P. Douw, Esq^r the debts to them due, the latter through the hands of James Duane, Esq^r

The Committee appointed to enquire into the conduct of the officers who are prisoners, and the manner in which they are subsisted at present, brought in their report, which, being taken into consideration, was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That the conduct of the officers at Trenton, though in other respects unexceptionable, is, as to their

manner of living, exceedingly extravagant, they being boarded at taverns, and the inn keepers supplying them in a luxurious manner, on the credit of the Continent:

~~The Committee therefore are of opinion~~

That the Congress will, for the future, allow two dollars per week for the board and lodgings of officers, who are prisoners, (for which sum they may have decent lodgings) to be repaid by the officers before they are released from their captivity.

That the accounts of the several Inn keepers against the officers be paid by the Continent, which are also to be repaid by the said officers before their discharge.

That no tavern keeper supply the said officers, for the future, on the credit of the Continent.

That the officers now at Trenton, be directed to remove to some other place at a proper distance from the public post Road.

That the officers at Trenton have liberty consistent with former resolutions of Congress, to chuse the places of their residence.

That a copy of the above resolutions, together with a copy of the resolution granting officers liberty to sell bills for their subsistence, be transmitted to the several committees, where officers who are prisoners reside; and that the said committees be directed to apply to the said officers for their bills to discharge the debts already incurred, and also to inform them, it is expected they will from time to time draw for their future subsistence.

Ordered, That Rachel Stille's account amounting to £158.17.7 equal to 423 6/10 dollars, for subsistence of officers to the 4th of January, 1776, be paid.

The Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the trade of the United Colonies, and after some time, the president resumed the

chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported, that the committee had taken into consideration the matter to them referred, but not having come to a conclusion, desired leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to Morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into further consideration the trade of the United Colonies.

A memorial from the field officers of the first Pensylvania batallion, was presented to Congress:

Ordered, That the same be referred till to Morrow.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned till 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1776

A letter from General Washington, dated 4 January; also a letter from the committee of safety of New York, dated January 3d, 1776, being received, were read:[1]

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to take into consideration the letter from the committee of safety of New York, and to confer with Mr. Romans, and report to Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, Mr. [Eliphalet] Dyer, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, Mr. [George] Wythe, and Mr. W[illiam] Livingston.

The Secret Committee having made report respecting the purchase of the salt petre ||lately imported,||

Resolved, That the said committee be directed to purchase the salt petre on the best terms they can, and have it manufactured into gun powder as soon as possible.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to supply Colonel Heard with 200 pounds of powder, to enable him to carry into execution the orders of Congress.

[1] The letter of Washington, unsigned, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 407. It is printed in *Writings of George Washington* (Ford), III, 312. The letter from the New York Committee is in No. 67, I, folio 145.

Resolved, That John Morgan be promoted to the rank of first lieutenant, in the first Pensylvania batallion ||one of the companies of Colonel Bull's batallion.||

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Monday.

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1776

A paragraph of a letter from Peter Timothy, secretary to the provincial convention and committee of safety of South Carolina, dated 5th January, to Christopher Gadsden, Esq[r] was read, informing that the said convention have resolved to continue the delegates, and have constituted *any two* of them a quorum to represent said colony.

A letter from General Washington, dated 31 December, 1775, enclosing a draught of Captain Matthews on the treasury of Virginia, for £100, lawful money, for amounts advanced to him by the General; and also sundry other papers;

Two letters from Lord Stirling, dated 8th and 11th January; a letter from Governor Trumbull, dated 6 January, 1776, with 3 enclosures, ||being received, were read:||[1]

Resolved, That the letter from General Washington be referred to a committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. [Samuel] Adams, and Mr. [James] Wilson.[2]

[1] Washington's letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 381. It bears an endorsement: "Estimate of expences of army at Cambridge ab[t] 275,000 dollars p[r] mo." It is printed in *Writings of Washington*, (Ford), III, 305. The letters of Lord Stirling are in No. 162, folios 360, 372. That of Governor Trumbull is in No. 66, I, folio 55.

[2] "Congress has just received a letter from General Washington, inclosing the copy of an application of our general assembly to him, to order payment to four companies stationed at Braintree, Weymouth, and Hingham. The General says they were never regimented, and he cannot comply with the request of the assembly, without the direction of Congress. A committee is appointed to consider the letter, of which I am one. I fear there will be a difficulty, and therefore I shall endeavor to prevent

Resolved, That the letters from Lord Stirling be referred to a committee of five.

The members chosen, Mr. W[illiam] Livingston, Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, Mr. [William] Floyd, Mr. [Samuel] Ward, and Mr. [Robert] Alexander.

Resolved, That the letter from Governor Trumbull, with the enclosures, be referred to the committee appointed to confer with Mr. Romans.

A letter from the committee of safety of New York, dated 11 January, 1776, was read;[1] and referred to the committee on the state of the colonies.

Resolved, That a committee of 5 be appointed to make an estimate of the number of cannon, that may be wanted for the defence of the United Colonies, and to devise ways and means for procuring them, and that it be an instruc tion to the said committee to enquire how large cannon can be cast in this country.

The members chosen, Mr. [Henry] Wisner, Mr. [Stephen] Hopkins, Mr. [John] Rogers, Mr. [Andrew] Allen, and Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine.[2]

a report on this part of the letter, unless I shall see a prospect of justice being done to the colony, till I can receive from you authentic evidence of those companies having been actually employed by the continental officers, as I conceive they have been, in the service of the continent. I wish you would inform me whether the two companies stationed at Chelsea and Malden were paid out of the continent's chest. I suppose they were, and if so, I cannot see reason for any hesitation about the payment of these. I wish also to know how many men our colony is at the expense of maintaining for the defence of its sea-coasts. Pray let me have some intelligence from you of the colony which we represent. You are sensible of the danger it has frequently been in of suffering greatly for want of regular information." *Samuel Adams to John Adams*, 16 January, 1776. John Adams, *Works*, IX, 373.

[1] Probably the letter to the New York Delegates, printed in Force, *American Archives*, Fourth Series, IV, 1038.

[2] "A Committee of Congress, of which Mr. Rogers is a member, have been appointed, to make inquiry into the quantity of cannon on hand, and what will be wanted, and where, and on what terms they can be had. No report is yet made, but a letter from Mr. Chase to Mr. Paca, mentioning that Hughes, in Frederick, had contracted with the Convention to supply our Province at thirty two pounds ten shillings, being communicated to Congress, the members of the Committee were

Ordered, That Captain Matthew's draft on the treasury of Virginia, be delivered to the delegates of that colony; and that they be desired to receive the money, and pay the same to the continental treasurers.

Resolved, That no bought indented servants be employed on board the fleet, or in the army of the United Colonies, without the consent of their masters.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Jacob Hiltzheimer, for expresses, the sum of 356 1/10 dollars.

To Jonathan Trumbull, Jun^{r} for his expences to Philadelphia, and returning to New York with money, the sum of 99 7/10 dollars.

To Thomas Apty, for boarding several prisoners, the sum of 109 6/10 dollars.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee of safety of Pensylvania, to enquire ~~whether any~~ into the character of the ~~prisoners~~ recruits or privates taken on board the *Rebecca and Frances* transport, ~~may be discharged~~ and to dismiss such as may, with safety to the United Colonies, be discharged ~~them accordingly~~.

The Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the state of the trade of the United Colonies; and, after some time, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported, that the committee had taken into their farther consideration the matter to them referred, but not having yet come to a conclusion, they desired him to move for leave to sit again.

immediately very desirous to see Mr. Hughes, to know whether he would make the like contract for supplying the demands of Congress. This will convince you that a supply cannot be had from hence, and that you must rely on your own resources, by casting them in the Province." *Maryland Delegates to the Council of Safety of Maryland*, 2 February, 1776. Force, *American Archives*, Fourth Series, IV, 914.

Resolved, That this Congress will, ~~to Morrow on Friday next,~~ resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into farther consideration the trade of the United Colonies.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.[1]

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1776

The colony of Connecticut having appointed new delegates, and the same attending, produced the credentials of their appointment, which was read as follows:

At a general Assembly of the Governor and Company of the English Colony of Connecticut, in New England, in America, holden at New Haven, (in said Colony,) on the second Thursday of October, Anno Domini, 1775.

Resolved, By this Assembly, That Roger Sherman, Oliver Wolcott, Samuel Huntington, Titus Hosmer, and William Williams, Esqrs. be, and they are hereby appointed Delegates to represent this Colony at the General Congress of the United Colonies in America, for the Year ensuing, and untill new be Chosen; that is to say, the said Roger Sherman, Oliver Wolcott, and Samuel Huntington, Esqrs. do attend

[1] "A motion was made in Congress the other day, to the following purpose; That, whereas we had been charged with aiming at independency, a committee should be appointed to explain to the people at large, the principles and grounds of our opposition, &c. The motion alarmed me. I thought Congress had already been explicit enough, and was apprehensive that we might get ourselves upon dangerous ground. Some of us prevailed so far as to have the matter postponed, but could not prevent the assigning a day to consider it. I may perhaps have been wrong in opposing this motion; and I ought the rather to suspect it, because the majority of your colony, as well as of the Congress, were of a different opinion.

"I had lately some free conversation with an eminent gentleman, whom you well know, and whom your Portia in one of her letters admired, [Franklin] if I recollect right, for his *expressive silence*, about a confederation; a matter which our much valued friend Colonel W[ythe], is very solicitous to have completed. We agreed that it must soon be brought on, and that if all the colonies could not come into it, it had better be done by those of them that inclined to it. I told him that I would endeavor to unite the New England colonies in confederating, if *none* of the rest would join in it. He approved of it, and said, if I succeeded, he would cast in his lot among us." *Samuel Adams to John Adams*, 15 January, 1776. John Adams, *Works*, IX, 372.

said Congress, and on the failure of either of the said Gentlemen, by sickness, or otherwise, then the said Titus Hosmer, or William Williams, Esqrs. are to supply the place or places of any or either of the said three Gentlemen first named, in such manner, that three of said Delegates, and three only, do attend said Congress at any one Time; and the said three Delegates, or any or either of them, who shall be present in said Congress, are hereby fully Authorized and Impowered to Represent this Colony in said Congress, to Consult, advise, and Resolve upon Measures necessary to be taken and pursued for the Defence, Security and preservation of the Rights and Liberties of the said United Colonies, and for their common safety; and of such their proceedings and Resolves they do transmit Authentic Copies, from Time to Time, to the General Assembly of this Colony. That the said Delegates now appointed do repair to, and take their Seats in said Congress, by the first Day of January next, in Case said Congress shall be then sitting, or as soon after as said Congress shall be Convened; and that the said Gentlemen, who are now attending said Congress in behalf of this Colony, do continue in their said Office untill the Gentlemen now Chosen, and are directed to attend in manner aforesaid, shall arrive at said Congress.

A true Copy of Record,

Examined by GEORGE WYLLYS, *Secretary*.[1]

A letter from Mr. [Francis] Lewis, dated 8 January, being read, ||recommending a stranger to the notice of Congress||[2].

Ordered, That the same be referred to the Committee on the qualifications of persons applying for offices.

Resolved, That a member be appointed on the committee to draw up instructions to the officers in the recruiting service, in the room of Mr. [Eliphalet] Dyer. The ballots taken Mr. [Thomas] McKean was chosen.

Resolved, That the several petitions of gentlemen, praying to be the appointed officers in the Pensylvania Bat-

[1] The original is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, Connecticut, *Credentials of Delegates*.

[2] The stranger was probably Dohicky Arundel. See *Journals*, February 5, 1776, *post*.

allions, be referred to the Committee on the qualification of officers.

An application being made in behalf of one Mr. Jugé and the owners of a vessel lately arrived in Delaware, for leave to export provisions to the amounts of the cargoes by them imported:

Resolved, That this be referred to the Secret Committee.

Some members of the Secret Committee being absent,

Resolved, That two members be added to that committee:

The members chosen, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes and Mr. [Robert] Alexander.

The committee on the state of these colonies brought in a partial report, which was read, whereupon,

~~Ordered, that the consideration~~

Resolved, That another batallion be raised in the colony of North Carolina, in order to defeat any attempts which may be made in opposition to the measures recommended by the Continental Congress, for the preservation of American Liberty.

Resolved, That the farther consideration of the report be referred till to Morrow.

||The committee having desired leave to sit again, the same was granted.||

Resolved, That to Morrow be assigned for taking into consideration, in a committee of the whole, the propriety of opening the ports after the first of March next.

Information being given to Congress by the delegates of South Carolina, that their colony, being in want of seamen, had given orders to offer high wages to such as would engage in their service, but least this should cause uneasiness among the seamen employed in the service of the colonies, they thought it proper to inform Congress the thereof, and take their opinion and direction thereon:

Resolved, That this be referred to a committee of 5.

The members chosen, Mr. [Stephen] Hopkins, Mr. [Samuel] Huntington, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, Mr. [Lewis] Morris, and Mr. [William] Floyd.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to fit out armed vessels, be empowered to purchase and fit out a small vessel as a tender for the fleet fitted out.

The committee appointed, to devise ways and means for procuring powder from Providence, brought in a report, with an account of a cargo provided for that purpose by Messrs. Willing and Morris, amounting to £1,212.9.0 Pensylvania currency = 3,233 2/10 Dollars; Whereupon,

Resolved, That the said committee be authorized to give such orders to the captain of the vessel, fitted out for the service as they may think proper.

That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of Messrs. Willing and Morris, for the sum of 3,233 2/10 dollars in full for the cargo shipped on board the sloop *Lady Catherine* for the use of the Continent.

The committee on General Washington's letters, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration, the Congress, thereupon, came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the pay master general of the army at Cambridge, be empowered to draw his bills upon the president of the Congress, or, in their recess, upon the committee of Congress for that purpose appointed, for any sums of money which may be deposited in his hands, not exceeding, in any one month, the monthly expences of the army; and that such bills, countersigned by the General or Commander in chief of the said army, be accepted and paid.

That the free negroes who have served faithfully in the army at Cambridge, may be re-inlisted therein, but no others.

That, if General Washington think proper, Colonel

R. Gridley be continued chief engineer in the army at Cambridge.

That the pay of the assistant engineers in the army at Cambridge be 26 2/3 dollars per month.

That there be but one chaplain to every two regiments of the army at Cambridge, and that the pay of each chaplain be 33 1/3 dollars per month.

The committee having desired leave to sit again, the same was granted.

Sundry members of the Committee on the Qualifications of persons applying for offices being absent,

Resolved, That four new members be chosen in the room of those who are absent.

The members chosen, Mr. [Oliver] Wolcott, for Connecticut, ||in the room of Mr. [Eliphalet] Dyer;|| Mr. [James] Duane, for New York ||in the room of Mr. [John] Jay;|| Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, for the three Lower Counties on Delaware, ||in the room of Mr. [Cæsar] Rodney;|| and Mr. [John] Rogers, for Maryland.

Resolved, That Thursday next be assigned for taking into consideration the report of the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Resolved, That a list of the committees to whom matters are referred, and who have not reported, be made out and laid upon the table.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1776

A Petition from Benjamin Church was presented to Congress, and read:[1]

Ordered, That the same be referred to a committee of three.

[1] This petition is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 41, II, folio 5.

The members chosen, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. [William] Paca, and Mr. [William] Hooper.

A petition from Ibbetson Hamar, an officer prisoner at Trenton, praying for leave to reside with Mrs. Hamar at Mr. Stainforth's, near Strawberry Hill near Prince Town, was read:

Resolved, That the same be agreed to.

A memorial from the captains and subalterns of the first Pensylvania batallion, complaining of the conduct of Colonel Bull, was presented to Congress and read:

Resolved, That the same be referred to the Committee on the Qualifications of officers, and that they be directed to hear the parties, and report to Congress.

A letter from Messrs. P[hilip] Livingston, [John] Alsop, and [Francis] Lewis, dated 15 January, informing that only 462 quarter casks of powder were imported,[1] being laid before Congress, was read.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the propriety of opening the ports after the 1 March next; and after some time, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported, that the Committee had taken into consideration the matter to them referred, and had come to a resolution, which he read in his place, and delivered in.

The report of the committee being read,

Ordered, That the same lie on the table ~~for the perusal of the members~~:

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed, to consider under what regulations and restrictions the trade of these Colonies ought to be carried on, after the 1st of March next.

[1] The Secret Journal Says "had arrived at Newport." This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XIV, folio 55.

The members chosen, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. [Robert] Morris, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, Mr. [Samuel] Adams, and Mr. [Roger] Sherman.

Resolved, That a member be appointed on the committee to confer with Mr. Romans.

The member chosen, Mr. [Oliver] Wolcott.

The committee appointed to prepare instructions for the officers in the recruiting service, brought in their report, which was read, and the same being taken into consideration, the Congress, thereupon, came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the colonels of the several batallions ordered to be raised, do immediately order their officers, on recruiting service, to such parts where they are best known, and have the greatest probability of success.

That the recruiting officers ought to be careful to inlist none but healthy, sound and able bodied men, and not under sixteen years of age.

That the colonels of the several batallions aforesaid, appoint some place or places of rendezvous, to which the recruits may be sent, and where the batallions may be quartered.

That the greatest attention ought to be paid to the behavior of the troops in quarters, that they may give no reasonable cause of complaint.

That the quarters of the troops be duly discharged once every week.

That an allowance of ~~ten shillings~~ one dollar and 1/3 dollar per man, be made to the recruiting officers in lieu of their expences in recruiting, exclusive of the subsistence money allowed them. And that, in case any men be inlisted contrary to the foregoing regulations, the pay they may have received, and the subsistence money that may be paid for them, shall be stopped from the pay of such recruiting officers.

That the colonels of the several batallions to be raised in Pensylvania, be supplied with money for the recruiting service, by the committee of safety of said colony, and disburse the same to the several recruiting officers; the colonels and other officers to be accountable for what they shall receive, and all arrears they may fall into, to be stopped from their pay.[1]

Resolved, That the sum of ten shillings ||one dollar and one-third of a dollar|| per man, be allowed to the officers of the first Pensylvania batallion, for each man by them inlisted and that have passed muster.

Resolved, That the treasurers be empowered to advance to Mr. Reganville a sum not exceeding 400 dollars, taking his draught or bill on his agent ||in Canada,|| for the same.

A letter from General Schuyler, dated 13th January, enclosing copies of letters from Generals Wooster, Arnold, and others, were laid before Congress, and read, containing an account of an unsuccessful attempt made to gain possession of Quebec by storm, on the 31 of December, and the death of General Montgomery.[2]

The committee to whom the matter of South Carolina, respecting the engaging seamen, was referred, brought in their report, which was read.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

[1] These resolves were printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 24 January, 1776. The following paragraph was added:

"That no bought indented servants be employed on board the Fleet or in the army of the United Colonies, without the consent of their masters."

[2] Schuyler's letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 153, I, folio 396. That of Arnold is on folio 400. The copy of Wooster's letter is in No. 161, folio 253. That of Arnold is in No. 162, folio 40. A copy of a letter from James Price to General Schuyler, dated Montreal, January 5, and read on this day is in No. 78, XVIII, 19.

Schuyler's letter was brought to Philadelphia by Edward Antill, who had conference with Congress.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1776

The committee on the petition of Dr. Church, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That Governor Trumbull be desired to give order for the removal of Dr. Church to some more comfortable place of confinement than that where he now is, if such can be found in that colony; and that, for the advancement of his health, the said Dr. Church be permitted to ride out, at proper seasons, under a trusty guard, who will be careful to prevent his carrying on any correspondence, or doing any act prejudicial to the safety and welfare of the United Colonies.

A letter from the committee of Frederic town, ||Maryland,|| enclosing sundry intercepted letters of Connolly, taken on Dr. John Smith, ||one of Connolly's associates,|| and brought by the guard who had the charge of bringing down said Smith, was laid before Congress and read:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee of safety of Pennsylvania, to take the examination of Dr. Smith, and then commit him to safe and close confinement.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to take into consideration the letter of General Schuyler ||of the 13th of January,|| and the enclosures, and report to Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, Mr. [Samuel] Ward, and Mr. S[amuel] Adams.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1776

Resolved, That five new members be added to the Committee of Claims, in the room of so many absent.

The members chosen, Mr. [Oliver] Wolcott, for Connecticut, ||in the room of Mr. [Silas] Deane;|| Mr. [William] Floyd, for New York, ||in the room of Mr. [Francis] Lewis;|| Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, for the 3 lower counties on Delaware, ||in the room of Mr. [Cæsar] Rodney;|| Mr. [John] Rogers, for Maryland, ||in the room of Mr. [Thomas] Johnson;|| Mr. E[dward] Rutledge, for South Carolina, ||in the room of Mr. [Christopher] Gadsden.||

The Committee to whom the letters from Lancaster were referred, brought in an answer, which being read was approved:[1]

Ordered, That the same be transcribed and forwarded.

GENTLEMEN:

The Congress have received your several letters of December 21st, January 3d, and 10th. A multiplicity of important business has retarded their answering them sooner.

Your civility to the officers who are prisoners, in giving them time to make choice of their places of residence, and permitting them to remain with you till their baggage shall arrive, is approved. Their complaint, that a separation from the soldiers is a breach of General Schuyler's solemn engagement, we apprehend not to be well-founded. All the stipulations of a capitulation ought, undoubtedly, to be held sacred, and faithfully fulfilled, because something is then given up or received, as a condition or equivalent; but no such stipulation is to be found in the capitulations upon which those gentlemen surrendered; nor had General Schuyler a right to make fresh terms with his prisoners, after they were in his power, without the consent of the Congress. Nevertheless, we should have paid a respect to his opinion and advice in the matter, had he given it, but we have not heard a word from him on the subject.

We have no objection to your permitting two or more of the officers to come, at proper times, from their places of residence to Lancaster, for the purpose of settling with, and paying their soldiers. Major

[1] A letter from Lancaster, signed by J. Yeates, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 69, I, folio 51.

Preston, being applied to, absolutely refuses to supply the soldiers with clothing or blanketing. We must, therefore, desire you will take care that they do not suffer for want of those articles, nor any other that are necessary for their comfortable subsistence in this inclement season. What you have already done of that kind, in furnishing them with firing, bedding, &c., is well approved, and the expenses will be defrayed. The inhabitants are at liberty to purchase bills drawn by the officers for their support and accommodation; but this is to be at the risk of the purchasers, and not to exceed what is, evidently, necessary for these purposes, wherein it is to be considered the Congress advances each officer two dollars a week for his subsistence.

We approve of your regulations for preserving the peace of the Borough, and of your placing a guard and ordering a patrol for that purpose, the expense of which will be paid.

The agent of the Army's Contractor refusal to supply the soldiers' wives and children with any meat or bread, surprises us. We know not the motives of such conduct, but we must approve of those humane sentiments which induced you to provide for them in their distress. The expenses will be allowed in your accounts.

Upon the whole, gentlemen, you have judged rightly in supposing that every measure you have taken, to render the situation of our prisoners as comfortable as possible, would be agreeable to us. As men, they have a claim to all the rights of humanity; as countrymen, though enemies, they claim something more. You have, therefore, the thanks of the Congress; and I am, in their behalf, gentlemen, &c.,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

To the COMMITTEE OF LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA.[1]

The Congress took into consideration the report of the Committee on the matter of South Carolina, respecting seamen; Whereupon,

Resolved, That it be recommended to Captain [Robert] Cochran, who is arrived here for the purpose of recruiting seamen, to pursue the following plan in the inlisting service in which he is employed by the province of South Carolina.

[1] From Force, *American Archives*, Fourth Series, IV, 762.

That he offer to each able bodied seaman the wages of eight dollars per month, and that he pay to them upon inlisting nine dollars bounty, and, upon their arrival in South Carolina, the farther bounty of five dollars.

That Captain Cochran repair immediately to the camp at Cambridge, and take the advice and direction of General Washington on this affair, and proceed to inlist his seamen in such parts of the country as will be the least prejudicial to the continental service.

That the president write to General Washington, acquainting him with the situation of South Carolina, the necessity that colony is in for seamen, and desiring that he will please to forward this service.[1]

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To the committee of Berks county, for provisions, ammunition, &c. furnished the riffle companies, £11 14 10, and for necessaries furnished the prisoners from St. John's, the sum of £8 13 11; amounting, in the whole, to £20 8 9, ||equal to 54.5 dollars,|| which ought to be paid to Dr. Jonathan Potts.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurer in favour of the delegates of South Carolina, for the sum of ten thousand dollars, which was ordered to be advanced to the Commissioners for Indian affairs in the Southern department, the said delegates to be accountable.

The council of safety of the three lower counties on

"The colony of South Carolina has been so fortunate as to oblige Lord William Campbell, with the vessels of war, to quit their harbor. Being earnestly desirous of providing for their defence, they have resolved to fit out some armed vessels, but not having seamen among themselves, they have despatched Captain Cochran to the northward, to inlist a number of seamen for the service of that colony. Lest the offers he was empowered to make might prejudice the service, the Congress have chalked out a plan for him to go by, as you will see in the enclosed extracts, and I am directed to desire you will please to forward this service." *John Hancock to Washington*, 20 January, 1776.

Delaware, having recommended sundry gentlemen for field officers, of the batallion ordered to be raised in said colony, the Congress proceeded to the choice, when the following gentlemen were chosen:

John Haslet, Esq^{r} Colonel,

Gunning Bedford, Esq^{r} lieutenant Colonel.

The Congress resuming the consideration of the report of the committee on the state of the colonies: whereupon,

Resolved, That four batallions be raised in the colony of New York, for the defence of that colony, upon the same pay with those directed to be raised in the province of Pensylvania; and that they be stationed as the commanding officer of the New York department shall think best, to garrison the several forts in that province, from Crown Point to the southward, and to prevent depredations upon Long Island, and to promote the safety of the whole.

Ordered, That a copy of the above ||resolution|| be transmitted to the council of safety of New York; and that they be requested, with all possible expedition, to transmit to Congress, the names of a number of gentlemen, at least two for each command, out of whom the Congress may elect field officers for said batallions.

The Committee on Qualifications brought in their report, which was agreed to as follows:

That Roger Stayner, and George Jenkins, be appointed first lieutenants in Colonel Bull's ||the first Pennsylvania|| batallion.

That the two eldest ensigns in the said batallion be second lieutenants in the said batallion in the room of the above.

That Robert Allison of Chester county be appointed an ensign in the said batallion.

That Jacob Shallus be appointed quarter master to said batallion.

The Committee appointed to hear the complaints of the officers of the first Pensylvania batallion, against Colonel Bull and Colonel Bull's defence, brought in their report, which, after debate, was referred till to morrow.

The Committee to whom General Schuyler's letter ||of the 13th of January,|| with the ||papers and letters|| enclosures, was referred, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the American army in Canada be reinforced with all possible despatch, as well for the security and relief of our friends there, as for better securing the rights and liberties not only of that colony, but the other United Colonies.

That an express be sent to the committee of safety of New Jersey, and an application made to that of Pensylvania, immediately to quicken the officers employed in levying the forces directed to be raised in those colonies, and marched to Canada, and do all in their power to forward the service. And that the committee of inspection of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, be requested forthwith to use their utmost endeavours to aid Mr. James Mease in procuring of the householders therein, such blankets as may be spared from their respective families, for the use of the batallions, destined for this important expedition, at so severe a season; for which the owners shall be allowed the value of such blankets, according to the estimation of the said committee of inspection. And that Colonels Bull and Maxwell, do, without delay, march such of the companies of their batallions as are now ready, to General Schuyler.

That General Washington be requested to detach from the camp at Cambridge, one batallion, if the service there

will permit him to spare one, with orders to march with the greatest expedition possible to Canada.

That for the more speedy raising the batallions, ordered on the 8th of January, to be raised in the colonies of New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, and Pensylvania, for the defence of Canada, it be recommended to the general assembly, convention, or council, or committee of safety, of those colonies respectively, to exert their utmost endeavours in raising the said batallions, upon the same pay and subsistence as the army at Cambridge, and to furnish them with provisions, ammunition, and other necessaries, ~~ordered by this Congress,~~ for expediting their march to Canada. And, for farther encouraging the men more cheerfully to enter into the service of their country, to give a bounty of six dollars and two thirds of a dollar, to every able bodied effective man, properly cloathed for the service, and having a good fire lock, with a bayonet, and other accoutrements; and four dollars to every soldier not having the like arms and accoutrements; the arms to be supplied by the colony, and the cost to be deducted out of the soldiers' pay; and also to provide a blanket and haversack for every inlisted soldier, and, moreover, to advance one month's pay to every officer and soldier before their march, that they may be able to purchase necessary cloathing.

That the first two companies which shall be compleat of every batallion, directed to be raised for the service in Canada, do march to that country so soon as they shall be ready, and be followed in the same numbers, with like expedition, by the rest of the corps. And that it be recommended to the general assemblies, conventions, and councils or committees of safety, of the colonies in which the batallions are directed to be raised, that they respectively attend to this business.

~~Resolved, That the remainder of the report be recommitted.~~

The committee desired leave to sit again, which was granted.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1776

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of the committee of safety for Pensylvania, for the sum of 15,000 dollars, for the use of the five batallions to be raised in said colony; the said committee to be accountable.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Captain Henry Shylock, for his expences in bringing Dr. John Smith from Hagars town, and for his expences in returning home, the sum of 89 3/10 dollars.

To John Nelson, for his expences in bringing the said Dr. Smith from the Little Meadows to Hagars town, and for his trouble in attending him to this city, with allowance of expences in returning home, the sum of 75 dollars.

To Francis Johnson, Esq^{r}, for sundry expences incurred by guards for powder, waggons, &c. the sum of 38 dollars.

To Thomas Dewees, for supporting several prisoners, the sum of 43 2/10 dollars.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

A memorial from Colonel Bull was read setting forth that "an attachment to liberty and a regard for the rights of mankind had induced him to take an active part in the present struggles for the defence of the same and to offer his services as colonel of the first Pensylvania batallion which were accepted," but that finding himself ill treated by many of the officers in his corps and that continuing in the command might prejudice the service he was

obliged by a regard to the public interest to beg leave to resign his commission humbly requesting that the Congress would proceed to a determination on the memorial exhibited against him and declaring that "the present untoward circumstances shall not alter his conduct nor abate his zeal and that whenever he shall be called upon again to serve his country he shall with the greatest pleasure obey the summons."[1]

The committee on General Schuyler's letter, brought in a farther report, which being taken into consideration, the Congress came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That General Washington be desired to despatch a general officer, if he can be spared from the service at Cambridge, to command the army in Canada.

That, it being necessary to procure a large quantity of specie for the operations in Canada, which cannot be successfully carried on without that article, it be recommended to the general assemblies, conventions, and councils or committees of safety, upon the continent, to employ proper persons, within their respective colonies, to collect all the gold and silver coin they can, and inform Congress of the sum collected.

That it will not be expedient at present to send a committee of Congress to Canada:

That the Committee of Secrecy be desired to despatch one ton of gun powder with the first companies that shall march from Pensylvania to Canada, and that Governor Trumbull be desired to send the like quantity of gun powder with the first detachment of forces directed to march thither from Connecticut:

That the losses sustained by Captain Hazen be ascertained by commissioners to be appointed by the com-

[1] This memorial is in Force, *American Archives*, Fourth Series, IV, 785. It was printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 24 January, 1776.

manding officer in Canada, and that the commissioners report their proceedings, with the examination of the witnesses, and their own opinion thereupon, to the Congress:

That the general assemblies, conventions or councils, or committees of safety, of the colonies, in which forces are directed to be raised for the service of Canada, be desired to raise, for the same service, one company of matrosses, consisting of forty privates, in each colony, under proper officers; and where a company cannot be compleated, to raise as many as they can, under subaltern officers, in proportion to their numbers:

That General Wooster be desired to take possession of the medicine chest mentioned by Colonel Campbell, to be claimed by Dr. Beaumont, and if it appear to him to be private property, to pay the value thereof to the owner:

That the general assemblies, conventions, or councils or committees of safety, be desired to take the most effectual measures for recovering the arms, accoutrements, batteaus, tools, and other stores of the continent, said to have been carried off by some of the soldiers who have returned from Canada:

That 12,500 dollars be advanced to each of the general assemblies or councils, or committees of safety, of the colonies in which forces are directed to be raised for the service of Canada, for the purpose of recruiting their respective regiments:

That, from the necessity of the case, and to prevent delays, blank commissions be issued by the president for the field officers, captains, and subalterns, who are to command the battalions ordered to be raised for Canada, in New Hampshire, and Connecticut, to be filled up with the names of such gentlemen as shall be judged most proper by the convention or committee of safety of

New Hampshire, and by the Governor and council of Connecticut:

That the foregoing resolution be not drawn into a precedent:

That, exclusive of Colonel Livingston and his regiment, already determined upon, there be one thousand Canadians more raised, for one year, or during the present disputes, at six dollars and two thirds of a dollar bounty, and the usual pay, which number shall compose four battalions, and form one regiment, five companies of fifty men to each batallion, one captain, one lieutenant, and one ensign, to each company, and four majors, one lieutenant colonel, and one colonel commandant, to the whole regiment:

That the committee of safety of Pensylvania be desired to provide and despatch fifes and drums to Canada, for the two regiments directed to be raised in that Colony.

Resolved, That orders be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of the delegates of New Hampshire, for the above sum of 12,500 dollars; and in favour of the delegates of Connecticut, for the like sum of 12,500 dollars; and in favour of the delegates of New York, for the like sum of 12,500 dollars, for the use of the batallions to be raised for Canada; and that the said delegates be desired to forward the said sums to their respective colonies with all expedition; the several colonies to be accountable for the same.

Resolved, That the president be directed to send an express to General Schuyler, with a letter, informing him of the measures the Congress have taken for the defence of Canada, and desiring him to forward the same to General Wooster:

That he likewise despatch an express, with the like information, to General Washington, to the Governor of

Connecticut, and the conventions or councils of safety of New Jersey, New York and New Hampshire.

The Committee on Qualifications having recommended the following gentlemen for ensigns for the first Pensylvania batallion, viz: Nicholas Scull, Joseph Greenway, John Irvine, John Brice, Benjamin[1] Rice, and Major Walbroon, the same were agreed to, and commissions ordered to be given them accordingly.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to supply the delegates of New Jersey with 300 pounds of powder for the use of Colonel Maxwell's battalion.

That the delegates of New Jersey be empowered to call on Mr. T[imothy] Matlack and receive from him a quantity of flints, for said battalion, and a quantity of ball or lead proportioned to 300 w[eigh]t of powder.

Resolved, That the treasurers be directed, with all expedition, to send a trusty person with £1,000, in continental money, to Samuel Patterson, Esq[r] near Christiana Bridge and receive in exchange for the same so much in silver and gold.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Monday next.[2]

[1] In the corrected Journal and the printed editions, this name is given as Richard.

[2] "I beg leave to renew my request, that Delegates may be appointed and sent here, as soon as possible, as in my opinion the representation of a Colony, at this important crisis, is too weighty and important to be intrusted to any one person. That you may see the necessity of a larger representation of our Colony, I would inform you, that beside Committees for special purposes, that are frequently chosen, there are four or five standing Committees appointed, some for secrecy, some for despatch; some of which Committees are intrusted with large powers; and that there may be no cause of complaint, those Committees consist of one Delegate from each Colony; sometimes two, sometimes three, of those Committees sit at the same time, so that, though I attend some one of the Committees almost every night and morning, before and after Congress, yet sometimes business of consequence is transacted by them without our Colony being represented, and sometimes the Committees sit while the Congress is sitting, so that our Colony must be unrepresented in one of them, while every other Colony may be represented in both.

"I have been here almost five months, great part of the time without a colleague. I really find that I never knew what confinement, with business, was before, and

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1776

A letter from Trenton dated 19 January was read[1]

~~Resolved that the same be referred to~~

A letter from General Washington 11 January 1776;

Two Letters from Lord Stirling 18 and 19 January;

A letter from General Schuyler dated 10 January, enclosing a letter from General Montgomery of the 18 December 1775 and 11 enclosures;[2]

Also A petition from John Sparling, being received were read.

Resolved, that the above be referred to a committee of three.

The members chosen Mr W[illiam] Livingston, Mr. [William] Hooper and Mr. [Samuel] Adams

~~Ordered That as the commissary of the first Pensylvania batallion is out of town, the quarter master of said batallion be directed to furnish the companies of said batallion on their march to Albany with provisions as well as lodgings.~~

Resolved, That the president be empowered to employ a ||private|| secretary, to be paid by the United Colonies.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Colonel Benedict Arnold, on account of the expences in the expedition against Ticonderoga and Crown Point,

that I want more exercise of body, and less of mind, at least for some time. I please myself with hopes I shall soon see Delegates here from our Colony, and that I may return to my family, and with my domestick affairs relax and unbend my fatigued mind." *Josiah Bartlett to Committee of Safety of New Hampshire*, 20 January, 1776.

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 68, folio 35.

[2] The letter of Washington is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 411. It is printed in *Writings of Washington* (Ford), III, 332. That of Schuyler is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 153, I, folio 388. Those of Stirling are in No. 162, folios 376, 382.

a ballance amounting to £245 14 1 lawful money=819 dollars,

Ordered that the same be paid to Silas Deane, Esq[r]

Resolved, That orders be sent to the committee of Trenton to send General Prescot and Captain Chace under a guard to Philadelphia.

Resolved, That a committee of 3 be appointed, to consider of a proper method of paying a just tribute of gratitude to the memory of General Montgomery:

The members chosen, Mr. [William] Livingston, Dr. [Benjamin] Franklin, and Mr. [William] Hooper.

The Congress proceeded to the election of field officers for the second Canadian regiment, when,

[Moses] Hazen, Esq[r] was unanimously elected Colonel commandant.

Edward Antil, Esq[r] lieutenant Colonel.

Resolved, That the United Colonies will indemnify Colonel Hazen for any loss of half pay which he may sustain in consequence of his entering into the service of America.[1]

Resolved, That the appointment of the majors, captains, and subalterns and staff-officers in the said regiment, be left to the commander in chief in Canada, with the advice of the general officers in that country, and ~~of Colonel Hazen,~~ lieutenant colonel Antil, and Mr. Price.

The Congress resumed the consideration of Colonel Bull's application, for leave to resign ||his commission|| which being read, was accepted.

||*Resolved*, That leave be granted him.||

The Congress then proceeded to the election of a Colonel for the said ||first Pennsylvania|| batallion, in the room of Colonel Bull, when John Philip De Haas Esq[r] was elected.

[1] In the MS. Journal these paragraphs on the Canadian regiment are stricken out, but they were restored by the resolution on page 92.

~~The Congress then took into consideration the report of the Committee on Indian affairs, and the same being read, was referred till to Morrow.~~

A memorial from Captain Duncan Campbell, a prisoner in the gaol of Philadelphia, being ||presented to Congress, and|| read,

Resolved, That the committee of safety [of Pennsylvania] be directed to release Captain Campbell on his parole similar with that of the other officers. That Captain Campbell have leave to reside at Lancaster.

Application being made in behalf of lieutenant M'Donald, for leave to come to Philadelphia, and remain there five days, in order to transact some necessary business;

The same was granted.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1776

Resolved, A committee of 3 be appointed to prepare a letter to the Canadians.

The members, Mr. [William] Livingston, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch and Mr. [James] Wilson.

A letter from General Schuyler, dated 14th January, enclosing a letter from General Arnold, was read:[1]

Resolved, That an Account of the late repulse our troops met with, and the loss we have sustained in the unsuccessful attempt on Quebec, be drawn up by the secretary, and laid before Congress.

Resolved, That the articles of war be translated into French, and 500 copies sent to Canada.

~~It being represented to Congress that Mr. Hazen was under parole to General Carlton~~

[1] The letter from Schuyler is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 153, I, folio 402.

~~The Congress proceeded to the choice of a Colonel for the second Canadian Regiment, when the ballots being taken~~

~~Edward Antil Esquire was elected Colonel Commandant~~

~~Resolved, That the appointment of a lieut Col for said regiment be left to the commander in chief in Canada with the advice of the general officers in that country and Col Antil and Mr. Price~~

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Adam Ekel, for waggonage from Lancaster to Cambridge, with Captain Smith's company of rifflemen, a ballance of £16 15 0=43 3/10 dollars.

To Deborah Siddens, for provisions for Captain Ross's company, the sum of £5 16 2=15 5/10 dollars.

To John Jervis, for ferriage, horse hire, &c. the sum of £4 10 5=12 dollars.

To the committee of Romboiet precinct, in Duchess county, in the colony of New York, the sum of £48 10 4 New York currency=129 4/10 dollars.

To Robert Erwin, for waggonage, the sum of 67 dollars.

To Timothy Matlack, for cash paid by him to Archibald Dick, the expenses of a guard over a powder waggon, £6 2 9=16 4/10 dollars.

||*Ordered*, That the said accounts be paid.||

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on Indian affairs, and after ~~debate~~ the same was ||debated||, was recommitted.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of the committee of safety of the three lower counties on Delaware, for the sum of 3,000 dollars, for the use of the batallion ordered to be raised there; the said committee to be accountable for the expenditure.

The committee to whom sundry letters were yesterday referred, brought in their report, which was read.

The Committee to whom were referred several Letters from General Washington, General Schuyler, Lord Stirling, and ~~Mr. Tucker~~ the President of the Convention of New Jersey, report.

That with respect to the advice transmitted by General Washington to the President of the Congress of his having sent General Lee to the Assistance of New York, it is the opinion of this Committee that the above measure was very judicious and necessary; and that Governor Trumbull be requested, and Lord Sterling directed by the Congress, to give all necessary Aid and Assistance to General Lee in carrying into Execution the Orders of General Washington relative to the said Province; And that the Convention or Committee of Safety of New York be requested earnestly to exert themselves on this important Occasion.

That many prisoners being quartered at Kingston in the Province of New York, the Committee are of opinion that it would be prudent to remove Captain Hewes and Capt Hanstruther from thence to some proper distance in that Neighbourhood; and that the officers from Montreal, now under charge of Col. Wyncoop, be kept at Bound Brook, in the Province of New Jersey.

That the officers now prisoners at Trenton, with their Servants and band of Music, be boarded in Farmer's Houses (not exceeding six miles) west of Trenton, and that the Soldiers there with their wives and children remain at Trenton; the Committee conceiving it improper for the said officers to reside at Bordington, that being a place thro' which the Stage Waggons constantly pass, and a Town much frequented, a circumstance which the Committee at Trenton did probably not consider.

That the officers and soldiers, now at Mr. Van Camp's, be conveyed to Lancaster, and there kept under the same regulations as the rest of the Garrison taken at St. John's.

~~That Mr. Tucker's request for blank Commissions be complyed with, and the Convention or Committee of Safety of New Jersey be supplyed with four thousand Dollars, for purchasing Arms for the New Jersey Battalions, to be accounted for by them; and that it appears to this Committee that Lo'd Stirling has been very active in forwarding the detachment, ordered to Long Island, under the command of Colo. Hurd.~~ [1]

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

[1] This report, in the writing of William Livingston, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, VI, folio 217.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1776

A letter from the committee of Trenton, dated January 23, was read.[1]

The secretary brought in an account of the repulse our troops met with in their attempt on Quebec, ||the 31st of December;|| which was read:

An account of the repulse our troops met with in their attempt on Quebec, the 31 December, 1775, published by Congress.

The letters from Canada bring an Account of an unsuccessful attempt made to gain possession of Quebec by storm, on the 31 of December last, between the hours of two and seven in the morning.

The General finding his cannon too light to effect a breach, and that the enemy would not hearken to terms of capitulation, formed a design for carrying the town by escalade. In this he was encouraged by the extensiveness of the works and the weakness of the garrison. When every thing was prepared while he was waiting the opportunity of a snow storm to carry the design into execution, several men deserted to the enemy. His plan at first was to have attacked the upper and lower town at the same time, depending principally for success against the upper town. But discovering from the motions of the enemy, that they were apprized of his design, he altered his plan; and having divided his little army into four detachments, ordered two feints to be made against the upper town, one by Col. Livingston, at the head of the Canadians against St. John's gate; the other by Captain Brown, at the head of a small detachment against cape Diamond; reserving to himself and Colonel Arnold the two principal attacks against the lower town.

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 68, folio 41.

At five o'clock the hour appointed for the attack, the general, at the head of the New York troops, advanced against the lower town at Aunce de Mere. Being obliged to take a circuit, the signal for the attack was given and the garrison alarmed before he reached the place. However pressing on he passed the first barrier, and was just opening to attempt the second, when by the first fire from the enemy he was unfortunately killed, together with his Aid de camp, Captain John Macpherson, Captain Cheeseman and two or three more. This so dispirited the men that Colonel Campbell, on whom the command devolved found himself under the disagreeable necessity of drawing them off.

In the mean while Colonel Arnold, at the head of about 350 of those brave troops, who with unparalleled fatigue had penetrated Canada under his command, and Capt Lamb's company of Artillery, had passed through St. Roques, and approached near a two gun battery without being discovered. This he attacked and though it was well defended for about an hour, carried it with the loss of a number of men. In this attack Colonel Arnold had the misfortune to have his leg splintered by a shot, and was obliged to be carried to the hospital. After gaining the battery his detachment passed on to a second barrier, which they took possession of. By this time the enemy, relieved from the other attacks by our troops being drawn off, directed their whole force against this detachment, and a party sallying out from Palace gate attacked them in the rear.

These brave men sustained the force of the whole garrison for three hours, but finding themselves hemmed in, and no hopes of relief, they were obliged to yield to numbers and the advantageous situation the garrison had over them.

No regular return is yet come to hand but by the advices received, we learn, that our loss in killed and wounded amounts to about 60, and 300 taken prisoners, who are treated very humanely. Among the slain are Capt. Kendricks and Lieutenant Humphreys, of the rifflemen, and lieutenant Cooper.

After this unfortunate repulse the remainder of the army retired about three miles from the city, where they have posted themselves advantageously and are continuing the blockade, waiting for reinforcements which are now on their march to join them:

Every possible mark of distinction was shewn to the corpse of General Montgomery, who was interred in Quebec on the 2 January.

Published by Order of the Congress.[1]

Resolved, That such of the soldiers, ordered to Canada, as are married, and are desirous of having part of their pay given to their wives, be indulged; and that the captains ||or pay master|| be directed, in future payment of such soldiers, to deduct such part of their monthly pay.

Resolved, That the president be desired to inform General Schuyler, that the return of cannon mentioned in his letter of December 21, is mislaid, and therefore that he is desired to make a return, to Congress as soon as may be, of all the cannon and artillery at Crown Point and Ticonderoga, exclusive of those, taken by Colonel Knox, for General Washington.

Resolved, That Mr. [John] Bankson be appointed a first lieutenant in the room of Mr. [John] Morgan, who is in the country.

Information being given to Congress that some ~~of the companies~~ soldiers in the first Pensylvania batallion, now

[1] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 31 January, 1776.

ordered to march immediately to Canada, are not supplied with arms:

Resolved, That the commanding officer of the said battalion be directed to make a return of the arms of said battalion, and how many are wanting, to the president of the committee of inspection and observation for the city and liberties of Philadelphia:

That the said committee be desired to use their utmost influence to provide good arms for such of said battalion as may want them.

Resolved, That a committee of 7 be appointed to consider the propriety of establishing a war office, and the powers with which the said office should be vested.

The members, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, Mr. [Benjamin] Franklin, Mr. E[dward] Rutledge, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. Samuel Ward, Mr. S[amuel] Adams, and Mr. [Robert] Morris.

The committee appointed to prepare a letter to the inhabitants of Canada, reported a draught which being read and considered, was approved, as follows:

The letter to the Inhabitants of the Province of Canada

Friends and Countrymen,

Our former address to you pointed out our rights and grievances, and the means we have in our power, and which we are authorised by the British Constitution to use in the maintenance of the former and to obtain a redress of the latter.

We have also shewn you that your liberty, your honor and your happiness are essentially and necessarily connected with the unhappy contest, which we have been forced into for the defence of our dearest privileges.

We see with inexpressible joy the favourable manner in which you have received the just and equitable remonstrances of your friends and countrymen, who have no other views than those of strengthening and establishing the cause of liberty. The services you have already rendered the common cause deserve our acknowledgments, and we

feel the just obligation your conduct has imposed on us to make our services reciprocal.

The best of causes are subject to vicissitudes, and disappointments have ever been inevitable. Such is the lot of human nature. But generous souls enlightened and warmed with the sacred fire of liberty become more resolute, as difficulties increase, and surmount with irresistible ardor every obstacle that stands between them and the favorite object of their wishes.

We will never abandon you to the unrelenting fury of your and our enemies. Two batallions have already received orders to march to Canada, a part of which are now on their route. Six additional batallions are raising in the United States for the same service and will receive orders to proceed to your province as soon as possible. The whole of these troops will probably arrive in Canada before the ministerial army under General Carlton can receive any succours. Exclusive of the forces before mentioned, we have directed that measures be immediately taken to embody two regiments in your country. Your assistance in the support and preservation of American liberty affords us the most sensible satisfaction and we flatter ourselves that you will seize with zeal and eagerness the favourable moment to co-operate in the success of so glorious an enterprize; and if more considerable forces should become requisite, they shall not fail being sent.

At this period you must be convinced that nothing is so essential to guard our interests and liberty, as efficacious measures to combine our mutual forces, in order that by such an Union of succour and councils, we may be able to baffle the endeavours of an enemy, who, to weaken, may attempt to divide us. To this effect we advise and exhort you to establish associations in your different parishes of the same nature with those, which have proved so salutary to the United Colonies; to elect deputies to form a provincial Assembly, and that said assembly be instructed to appoint delegates to represent them in this Congress. We flatter ourselves with the prospect of the happy moment, when the standard of tyranny shall no longer appear in this land, and we live in full hopes that it will never hereafter find shelter in North America.

Signed in the name and by Order of Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, *president.*

Philadelphia, January 24, 1776.

Ordered, That it be immediately translated ||and printed.||

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of Mr. Carpenter Wharton, for the sum of 1,000 Dollars, to enable him to supply the first Pensylvania battalion with provisions on their march ||to Albany;|| he to be accountable.

Resolved, That a committee of 5 be appointed to prepare an address to the inhabitants of the United Colonies.

The members chosen, Mr. [John] Dickinson, Mr. [James] Wilson, Mr. [William] Hooper, Mr. [James] Duane, and Mr. [Robert] Alexander.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of Captain Hazen, for the sum of 533 1/3 dollars, he to be accountable.

That a like order be drawn in favour of Colonel Antil, for the sum of 200 dollars.

Resolved, That the sum of 2,666 2/3 dollars, in specie, be advanced to Colonel Hazen, for the use of the battalion to be by him raised in Canada, ||he to be accountable.||

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1776

A letter, from the committee of Trenton, dated January 23;

A letter from Ibbetson Hamar, ditto

A letter from Richard Huddleston,

A letter from the committee of Lancaster, 22 January, enclosing an answer from the officers to the resolutions of Congress, were read,

Resolved, That the foregoing be referred to the committee of correspondence.[1]

The Committee to whom the Letter from the Committee of Trenton was referred, are of Opinion,

That the Receipt thereof be acknowledged, and the Thanks of the

[1] The letter of the Trenton Committee is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 68, folio 47. Those of Hamar and Huddleston are in No. 78, XI, folios 9, 13. That of the Lancaster Committee is in No. 78, XIX, folios 3, 9.

Congress express'd for the Readiness with which its Orders relating to Gen. Prescot and Capt. Chace had been executed.

The same Committee on considering Dr. Huddlestone's Letter, are of Opinion,

That he be immediately set at Liberty on the Terms he mentions. And that a verbal Proposition be sent by him to General Carleton, to enter into a Stipulation on both sides, not only to release all Physicians and Surgeons; but that if by the Fortune of War, the Hospital of either Army should fall into the Power of the other, the same Subsistence and Supplies should be afforded to the Sick and Wounded as if Friends; and that neither they nor the Attendants of the Hospital should be considered or detain'd as Prisoners. And it is farther the Opinion of the Committee, that if Govr. Carleton should not agree to the mutual Release of Surgeons, Dr. Huddlestone is to be on his Parole, to return immediately hither.[1]

[1] This report, in the writing of Benjamin Franklin, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, III, folio 215. The following notes in the writing of Franklin are in No. 78, XIX, folio 7.

"Agreed to set Dr Huddlestone at Liberty on the Terms he mentions. And send by him a Proposition to Gen. Carleton, that it be Stipulated on both Sides, not only to release all Surgeons; but that if by the Fortune of War, the Hospital of either Army should fall into the Power of the other, the same Care should be taken of the Sick and Wounded as of Friends, and that neither they nor the Attendants of the Hospital should be considered as Prisoners. And if Gov^{r} Carleton should not agree to the mutual release of Surgeons, Dr. Huddleston is to be on his Parole to return immediately.

"OFFICERS ANSWER AT LANCASTER

"1. To be left on the Footing it was plac'd on in our Letter of the 18th.

"2. Resolve related merely to the Officers at Trenton, no Complaint having been received of those at Lancaster.

"3. 2 Dollars per Week was the Allowance of Congress, the Officers may refuse it or add to it on their own Acc^{t} as they please.

"4. Enquire the meaning—High Ac^{ts} from Trenton

"5. See the Resolution of Congress, express stronger than before what relates to Gen. Schuyler's Promise.

"6. We shall be extreamly sorry to be reduc'd to the Necessity of confining them in Prison if they cancel their Parole.

"7. Cloathing ordered by us. Their Cloathing ordered to be brought up.

"8. Provided for in our former Letter.

"9 and 10. It is not desired to remove any Officer to the Prejudice of his Health. Directions given in former Letter relating to the Women and Children.

"GEN. WASHINGTON'S LETTER

"All the Tent Cloths to be got, shall be forwarded.

"Some arrived in Maryland.

"No Arms to spare here. Write to the Assembly, &c. to strengthen G. Washington's Application."

A letter from Colonel Maxwell, respecting the unprepared state of his batallion ||being read||[1]

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of the committee of Trenton, for the sum of 4000 dollars, for the purchase of arms for Colonel Maxwell's batallion, the said committee to be accountable.

Resolved, That the president write to the said committee, and to Mr. Lowry, stimulating them to furnish Colonel Maxwell||'s battalion|| with the articles necessary for their march; and that the president write to Colonel Maxwell, and direct him to send forward to Albany, the first company that can be got ready, and that he cause the other companies to march with like expedition, ||one at a time,|| as fast as they can be got ready.

Resolved, That a committee of 3 be appointed to take the examination of General Prescot and Captain Chace, who are now arrived in Philadelphia, and report to Congress:

The members ||chosen,|| Mr. [Samuel] Adams, Mr. [Samuel] Ward, and Mr. [Roger] Sherman.

The committee appointed to consider of a proper method of paying a just tribute of gratitude to the memory of General Montgomery, brought in their report, which, being taken into consideration, was agreed to as follows:

It being not only a tribute of gratitude justly due to the memory of those who have peculiarly distinguished themselves in the glorious cause of liberty, to perpetuate their names by the most durable monuments erected to their honour, but also greatly conducive to inspire posterity with an emulation of their illustrious actions:

Resolved, That, to express the veneration of the United Colonies for their late general, Richard Montgomery, and

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XV, folio 3.

the deep sense they entertain of the many signal and important services of that gallant Officer, who, after a series of successes, amidst the most discouraging difficulties, fell at length in a gallant attack upon Quebec, the capital of Canada; and for transmitting to future ages, as examples truly worthy of imitation, his patriotism, conduct, boldness of enterprize, insuperable perseverance, and contempt of danger and death; a monument be procured from Paris, or any other part of France, with an inscription, sacred to his memory, and expressive of his amiable character and heroic atchievements: And that the continental treasurers be directed to advance a sum, not exceeding £300 sterling, to Dr. Benjamin Franklin (who is desired to see this resolution properly executed) for defraying the expence thereof.

That Dr. Smith be desired to prepare and deliver a funeral oration in honor of General Montgomery, and of those officers and soldiers, who so magnanimously fought and fell with him in maintaining the principles of American Liberty.

Resolved, That the direction of the fleet fitted out by the order of Congress, be left to the marine ||naval|| committee.[1]

A letter from General Washington, dated January 14, was laid before Congress and read.[2]

[1] In a memorandum by Charles Thomson, summarizing the resolutions of Congress on naval matters he mentions the appointment of the committee to consist of one member from each State (*Journals*, December 14, 1775), and added that this Committee "was afterwards denominated the *Marine Com^ee* to distinguish it from the Naval Com^ee above mentioned, which was still in existence." Later, the memorandum says: "The Naval Com^ee having executed the business for which they were appointed had only to render their accounts, but on the 25 January the direction of the fleet fitted out by order of Congress was left to them." The manuscript text of the Journals gives *marine*, which was afterwards changed to *naval*.

[2] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 415. It is printed in *Writings of Washington* (Ford), III, 337.

Resolved, That it be referred for consideration to the Committee of Correspondence.

Resolved, That Mr. James Mease be appointed a commissary to supply the battalions, ordered to be raised in Pensylvania, with the articles allowed by Congress; he to be allowed ||for his trouble,|| one and $^1/_4$ per cent. in full of all charges for the money passing through his hands, and to give security for the just and faithful expenditure of the same.

That Mr. [Thomas] Lynch and Mr. [Andrew] Allen be appointed to take the security.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of the delegates of North Carolina, for the sum of 10,000 dollars, for the use of the battalions ordered to be raised in that colony.

The committee appointed to take the examination of General Prescot and Captain Chace, made report of their proceeding:

Resolved, That colonel Roberdeau be requested to relieve the guard from Trenton, who has charge of General Prescot and Captain Chase, with a trusty guard from his battalion.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to take the examination of General Prescot and Captain Chase, be directed to enquire particularly into the conduct and character of General Prescot, and to consult the letters of General Washington, General Schuyler and General Montgomery respecting him, and report to Congress.

Resolved, That the fortification at Crown Point be not repaired; and that the fortress at Ticonderoga be repaired and made defensible; and that General Schuyler be desired to make return to the Congress, as soon as may be, of the size and number of cannon, that will be necessary to fortify that place.

~~The Congress being informed that there [are] some circumstances attending the parole given by Mr. Hazen,~~

~~Resolved that a committee be appointed to enquire into the particulars.~~

~~The committee returned and reported that upon enquiry they find the parole was given while he was in close custody, that notwithstanding the parole he was still continued in the same confinement, and kept confined till released by General Montgomery after gaining possession of Montreal. Whereupon,~~

~~Resolved that the resolutions passed on Monday stand and that those passed on Tuesday respecting the appointment of Colonel and lieut Colonel of Canadian Regiments be expunged.~~

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1776

A letter from General Lee, dated 22 January, enclosing a letter from the committee of safety of New York, being received was read.[1]

[1] This letter and enclosure are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 158, folios 1, 9.

"The Congress this day received a letter from General Lee, apprising us of his intended march into New York, in obedience to orders from General Washington, favouring us, at the same time, with a copy of your letter to him on this subject.

"As we perceived it was General Lee's intention immediately to proceed to your city, and that you thought such a measure dangerous to the lives of the inhabitants, and in other respects unseasonable, we thought it our duty to apply for a Committee of Congress to examine into the expediency of the expedition, and to give such directions as, upon consulting you and the General, might appear most prudent and advisable.

"Colonel Harrison, Mr. Lynch, and Mr. Allen, are intrusted with this important business, a choice which we approve, having the highest sentiments of their humanity, patriotism, and judgment. "*New York Delegates to the New York Committee of Safety*, 27 January, 1776. Force, *American Archives*, 4th Series, IV, 1091.

"Messrs. Harrison, Lynch, and Allen, the Committee of the Continental Congress, attended the Committee, and were introduced. The Committee of Safety informed those gentlemen that their answer to the order of this Committee occasioned this

Resolved, That a committee of 3 be appointed to consider what allowance ought to be made for paying the troops ||raised|| in New Jersey and Pensylvania, and report to Congress.

The members ||chosen||, Mr. [Samuel] Ward, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, and Mr. [Andrew] Allen.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of the Commissioners for Indian affairs in the middle department, for the sum of 1,000 dollars, they to be accountable.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of the Committee of Correspondence, for the sum of 7,000 dollars, they to be accountable.

conference. The Committee of Safety, on their part, suggested that, as General Lee, by his letter, had informed them that he would delay the main body of his troops on the frontiers of Connecticut until after his arrival; that as those troops are introducing into the Colony, without any particular order of the Continental Congress known to this Committee, and Major General Lee, who was to have preceded those troops, and had the command of them, detained by indisposition, the Committee of Safety conceive that those troops ought not to be introduced into he city on any other condition than under their direction; that the dignity of this Colony in the Continental Union, and their duty to their constituents to preserve their liberties, and prevent any manœuvre or accident that may endanger the safety tof the city, or cause the removal of the inhabitants at this inclement season of the year, in their opinion, forbids the introduction of those troops on any other condition, for the present.

"The gentlemen of the Committee of Continental Congress then informed this Committee that Congress, in consequence of having received a copy of the letter of the Committee of Safety to General Lee, had appointed them a Committee to confer with General Lee and this Committee; that no service or matter whatever should be undertaken by those troops, until such conference had. They then produced their credentials from Congress, whereby the directions of those troops are given to the gentlemen of that Committee. They further assured the Committee that General Lee, knowing that they were here, by his instructions to Colonel Waterbury, had directed those troops to be under their command; that they would, as far as in their power, take care that the troops should be kept under good government and discipline until General Lee's arrival, and for that purpose they had given particular directions to Colonel Waterbury.

"The Committee thereupon were satisfied, and declared they were contented, as those troops are under the command of the Committee of the Continental Congress." *Minutes of the New York Committee of Safety*, 1 February, 1776. Force, *American Archives*, Fourth Series, IV, 1100.

A petition from sundry persons, respecting the inlisting of apprentices, ||was presented and read.||

The Congress taking into consideration the letter from General Lee, with the enclosure:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to repair to New York, to consult and advise with the council of safety of New York and General Lee respecting the immediate defence of the said city; and that General Lee be directed to follow the determination of the said committee thereupon:

That it be an instruction to said committee, in case the city cannot be defended, that they earnestly recommend it to the inhabitants immediately to remove their most valuable effects to a place of safety:

That the said committee be instructed to consult with General Lee and the committee ||of safety|| of New York, about the fortifications on Hudson's river, and about fortifying the pass at Hell gate:

The members appointed, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, and Mr. [Andrew] Allen.

A letter from Fort Pitt, dated January 15th, with enclosures, were read.

||Adjourned to ten o'clock to-Morrow.||

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1776

A letter from General Washington, 19 January with 4 enclosures:[1]

Resolved, that the same be referred to ~~Mr. [Thomas] Lynch~~ Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, Mr. [Samuel] Ward and Mr. S[amuel] Adams.

[1] The letter of Washington is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, 419. It is printed in *Writings of Washington* (Ford), III, 359. That of the Committee of Trenton is in No. 68, folio 51. The enclosure is a copy of a letter from General Schuyler to Captain John Hulbert, dated Ticonderoga, November 1, 1775. That of Stirling is in No. 162, folio 384. That of Lowrey, dated the 25th, is in No. 78, XIV, folio 59.

A letter from the committee of Trenton, dated 24 January, with an enclosure:

A letter from Lord Stirling, dated 25 [24] January, and a letter from Mr. Lowry, dated 24 [25] January, were read, and referred to the same committee.

~~Resolved That a committee of 2 be appointed to confer with Col. Hazen:~~

~~The members chosen Mr. [Samuel] Adams and Mr. [James] Duane.~~

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Colonel Cornelius Wynkoop, for expences in bringing a party of prisoners from St. John's, the sum of £306 6 8 New York currency equal to 765 7/10 dollars, of which £34 10 7 New York currency = 86 2/10 dollars ought to be charged to the officers of said party of prisoners.

||*Ordered*, That the same be paid.||

Resolved, That the committee of inspection of Esopus, or Kingston, be directed to supply the prisoners there with necessary cloathing, and also provide them with lodging and provisions not exceeding the rations allowed the privates in the continental army, on the most reasonable terms they can.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to take into consideration the report of the Commissioners for Indian affairs in the middle department, and the state of the Indians in said department, and report

The members, Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, Mr. [James] Wilson, Mr. [James] Duane, and Mr. [John] Rogers.

Resolved, That a commission issue to Cayashota, giving him the rank of a colonel, and that a silver gorget be presented to him.

The Congress taking into consideration the report of the committee on the case of Mr. Jugé,

Resolved, That Mons^r^ Jugé be permitted to export the produce or manufactures of the province of Maryland (horned cattle, hogs, sheep, and poultry excepted) to any port or place whatsoever, (except to Great Britain, Ireland, British isles, and British West Indies, and for the supply of the British army or navy in America) to the amount of the canvas imported by him into the said province: the said value to be ascertained by the committee of inspection and observation for the county of Baltimore:

Resolved, nevertheless, that the indulgence, in this instance, ought not to be drawn into example, the same being granted to Mons^r^ Jugé on account of the peculiar circumstances of his case; and that the said Mons^r^ Jugé be enjoined, by the aforesaid committee of Baltimore, to avoid, if possible, all British ships of war and armed cutters on his voyage.

A memorial from Henry Keppele and John Steinmetz being laid before Congress, and read:

Resolved, That the same be referred to a committee of 3:

The members chosen, Mr. [Samuel] Ward, Mr. [Robert] Alexander, and Mr. [George] Wythe.

Resolved, That a committee of 3 be appointed, to take into consideration the matter of the inlistment of apprentices and persons in debt, report thereon to Congress

The members chosen, Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, and Mr. [George] Wythe.

The committee to whom part of the report on the treaty held with the Indians at Albany, and the letter of Volkert P. Douw, Esq^r^ was committed, brought in their report: which being taken into consideration the Congress thereupon, came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That in order to preserve the friendship and confidence of the Indians, and to prevent their suffering

for want of the necessaries of life, a suitable assortment of Indian goods, to the amount of £40,000 sterling, be imported on account and risque of the United Colonies:

That the said goods, when imported, be divided among the different departments, in the following proportions, viz: for the northern department, comprehending Canada, the value of £13,333 6 8 sterling; for middle department, the like value: and the residue for the southern department:

That in order to pay for the said goods, a quantity of produce of these colonies be exported to some foreign European market, where it will sell to the best advantage:

That the Secret Committee be empowered to contract with proper persons for importing said goods, and for exporting produce to pay for the same:

That the said goods, when imported, be delivered to the commissioners of Indian affairs for the respective departments, or their order, in the proportions before mentioned:

That the respective commissioners, or such of them as can conveniently assemble for that purpose, shall, as the goods arrive, fix a price, adding to the first cost, interest, the charge of insurance, and all other charges, and also a commission, not exceeding $2^1/_2$ per cent. on the first cost, for their own care and trouble in receiving, storing and selling them among the Indian Traders; But such commissioners as are, at the same time, members of Congress, shall not be burthened with this part of the business, nor receive any part of the aforesaid commission:

That no person shall be permitted to trade with the Indians without License from one or more of the commissioners of each respective department:

That all traders shall dispose of their goods at such stated reasonable prices, as shall be fixed and ascertained

by the commissioners, or a majority of such as can conveniently assemble for that purpose, in each respective department; and shall allow the Indians a reasonable price for their skins and furs, and take no unjust advantage of their distress or intemperance; And, for this purpose, they shall, respectively, upon receiving their licenses, enter into bond to the commissioners, for the use of the United Colonies, in such penalty, as the acting commissioners or commissioner shall think proper, conditioned for the performance of the terms and regulations above prescribed:

That to such licensed traders only, the respective commissioners shall deliver the goods, so to be imported, in such proportions as they shall judge will best promote a fair trade, and relieve the necessities of the Indians:

That every trader, on receiving the goods, shall pay to the commissioners in hand, the price at which they shall be estimated; And the commissioners shall, from time to time, as the money shall come to their hands, transmit the same to the continental treasurers, deducting only the allowance for their trouble as aforesaid:

That the trade with the Indian nations shall be carried on at such posts or places only, as the commissioners for each department shall respectively appoint:

That these resolutions shall not be construed to prevent or debar any private person from importing goods for the Indian trade, under the restrictions expressed in the Association.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Monday.

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 1776

A letter from Governor Trumbull, dated January 20th, being received, was read.[1]

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 66, I, folio 67.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favor of James Mease, commissary, for the sum of 5,000 dollars, for the use of the battalions ordered to be raised in Pensylvania.

The committee, to whom were referred the letter from General Washington, dated 19 of this instant, with the papers therein mentioned, and the letter from lord Stirling, dated 24th of the same month, and the letter from Mr. Tucker, chairman of the committee of safety of New Jersey, dated the day last mentioned, brought in their report: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the applications made by General Washington to the governments of New Hampshire, Massachusetts bay, and Connecticut, in such an exigency, to raise a regiment in each of those colonies for the service of Canada, were prudent, consistent with his duty, and a farther manifestation of his commendable zeal for the good of his country; that the ready attention of the said governments to those applications, and the alacrity with which they undertook, and the expedition with which they proceed in the business, are additional proofs of their meritorious attachment to the common cause, and may produce signal public advantages: and that it be recommended to the general assembly of Massachusetts bay, to raise the like number of matrosses, and in the like manner, ~~as is recommended to the other colonies by the resolution of 20 January;~~ and that both these and the additional regiment there, be inlisted upon the same terms as those directed to be raised for this service in New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, and Pensylvania; and for this purpose, that 12,500 dollars be advanced to the delegates of Massachusetts bay, and forwarded by them, with blank military commissions for the field officers, captains and subalterns, signed by the president to the said general assembly:

That the three regiments to be raised in New Hampshire, Massachusetts bay and Connecticut, for service in Canada, be exclusive of the thirteen intended to reinforce the Army at Cambridge:

That the loss of and damage to such fire arms, belonging to the soldiers in the service of the continent, as shall happen not through carelessness or other misbehaviour, the value being ascertained in a proper manner, to be provided by the general assemblies, conventions, and councils or committees of safety of the United Colonies respectively, be made good to the owners; and that their arms, after their time of service [is] expired, be not detained from them:

That the alertness, activity and good conduct of Lord Stirling, and the forwardness and spirit of the gentlemen, and others, from Elizabeth town, who voluntarily assisted him in taking the ship *Blue Mountain Valley*, were laudable and exemplary; and that his lordship be directed to secure the capture, until the further order of the Congress; and that, in the mean time, he cause such part of the loading, as would otherwise perish, to be disposed of by sale.

The committee desired leave to sit again, which was granted.

A petition from Dr. Wheelock, being laid before Congress, was read, and referred to the Committee on Indian affairs in the middle department.[1]

~~The committee on the inlistment of apprentices &c. brought in their report, which, after debate, was recommitted.~~

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Hugh M'Clenaghan, an express from Pittsburg, for expences, &c. the sum of 46 2/10 dollars.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

[1]A copy of this petition is in the Washington Papers, *Letters to Washington*, VIII, folio 31.

Resolved, That General Prescot be committed to, and kept in close confinement in the gaol of Philadelphia, till farther orders of Congress.

That Captain Chace be remanded to Trenton, and permitted to reside with the other officers on his parole.

A memorial and proposal of Captain John Nelson, respecting a company of rifflemen, ~~consisting of 70 privates and four officers all furnished with riffles may be taken into the service of the united colonies and sent to Canada~~, was presented to Congress, and read:

~~Resolved that the said company be taken into pay on the same terms as the other forces destined for Canada, to serve in one of the batallions to be raised there.~~

~~The officers of the said company are John Nelson, Captain, Moses Decker, first lieutenant, Adam Ott, 2d lieutenant and Isaac Newkirk, 3d lieutenant.~~

That a committee be appointed to confer with Captain Nelson ~~and fix the rout of the Company.~~

The Members, Mr. [John] Morton, Mr. [Henry] Wisner, and Mr. [Roger] Sherman

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1776

Resolved, That Dr. Cadwalader and Dr. W. Shippen, Junr be desired to inspect the room of the gaol where General Prescot is confined, and enquire into the state of his health, and report to Congress.

The committee appointed to confer with Captain Nelson, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration, and thereupon,

Resolved, That Captain Nelson's company of rifflemen, now raised, consisting of one captain, three lieutenants, four serjeants, four corporals and seventy privates, be

inlisted for the service of Canada, on the same terms as the other troops ordered for that service, and that they march to Canada, and join a regiment there as soon as possible: that they be allowed one quarter of a dollar per day, for their subsistence on their march to Albany:

That six dollars and two thirds of a dollar bounty, be paid to each non commission officer and soldier, who is furnished with sufficient arms, accoutrements, and clothing for the service, upon their entering into the service of the colonies, and one month's pay to the commission officers.

That 900 dollars be advanced to said Captain Nelson for that purpose, and for the subsistence of said company on their march to Reading:

That the sum of 700 dollars be sent to the committee of inspection at Reading: that said committee pay one month's wages to the non commission officers and soldiers, upon their arrival there, and deliver the residue of said sum to Captain Nelson, for the subsistence of the said company in their march from thence to Albany; he to account for what money he receives with General Schuyler, at Albany.

The officers of the said company are, John Nelson, captain; Moses Decker, first lieutenant; Adam Ott, second ditto; and Isaac Newkirk, third lieutenant.

The committee, to whom General Washington's letter of the 14th January, was referred, brought in their report, which was read, and thereupon,

Resolved, That all the tent cloth which can be procured here [in Philadelphia] or in New York, should be purchased for the Congress, and that the quantity necessary for the ensuing campaign in the army before Boston, be forwarded thither, if so much is to be had:

That it be recommended to the several Assemblies in New England, to assist the general in procuring arms; and the thanks of the Congress be given to such of them as have already done so:

Resolved, That Mr. J[ames] Mease, ~~be directed to enquire buy up for the use of~~ in Philadelphia, and the committee appointed to purchase cloathing &c. ||Mr. [Francis] Lewis, Mr. [John] Alsop, and Mr. L[ewis] Morris,|| in New York, be directed to carry the former resolution into execution.

The Committee on the inlistment of apprentices, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration, and thereupon

Resolved, That no apprentice whatsoever be inlisted within the colonies of New Jersey, Pensylvania, the counties on Delaware and Maryland, as a soldier in the army or navy of the United Colonies, without the consent of his master or mistress first obtained in writing; and that all apprentices now inlisted as soldiers in said army or navy, without such consent, be immediately discharged from the service, on the application of his master or mistress, upon payment of all just and reasonable charges of their inlistment:

That it be recommended to all creditors, whose demands against any person who is inlisted, or shall inlist, in the continental service, shall not amount to the value of 35 dollars, not to arrest any such debtor till the expiration of the time for which he is inlisted.

That every person under the age of twenty-one years, inlisting himself in the army or navy aforesaid, may, within 24 hours after such inlistment, obtain his discharge, by refunding the money received from the recruiting officer, and returning such necessaries as may

have been supplied him by the officer, or the value thereof in money.

That these resolutions be published.[1]

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers for the sum of 1000 dollars, to discharge a draft of the pay master general, for so much deposited with him, for the use of the United Colonies.

Resolved, That a committee of 5 be appointed to take into consideration an application from the committee of safety of New York.

||The members chosen,|| Mr. [Samuel] Ward, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, Mr. [William] Paca, Mr. [[2]] Lee, and Mr. [Cæsar] Rodney.

Resolved, that a member, Mr. R[obert] Morris, be added to the committee of [Secret] Correspondence.

Resolved, That the committee for fitting out armed vessels be empowered to draw on the treasurers for a sum not exceeding 30,000 dollars, in order to discharge sundry debts by them contracted.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.[3]

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1776

Sundry letters, viz. one from Lord Stirling, dated 27th January; one from the Committee of Trenton, of 30th, one from Col. A. St. Clair, of the 27th, and one from Col.

[1] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 7 February, 1776.

[2] Probably Richard Henry Lee.

[3] "In consequence of the resolve of the Convention, we made application to Congress to grant permission to consume the tea imported before the 1st of February last. The application was referred to a Committee of the Whole House, where the subject was debated for two days, and overruled by a majority of seven Colonies to five, (the last New York, Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland,) and a report made by the Chairman that it was inexpedient to alter the Association. This report now lies on the table." *Robert Alexander to the Council of Safety of Maryland*, 30 January, 1776. Force, *American Archives*, Fourth Series, IV, 887.

Maxwell, of the 31 of the same month, were laid before Congress, and read.[1]

Resolved, That a committee of two be appointed to confer with Colonel Maxwell respecting the state of his regiment, and report the means of facilitating and hastening his march.

The members chosen, Mr. [William] Livingston and Mr. [James] Wilson.

Dr. Cadwalader and Dr. Shippen returned their report respecting the room where General Prescot is confined, and the state of the general's health, which was read.

The Congress, taking into consideration the letter from Colonel St. Clair, respecting the inlistment of some of the prisoners at Lancaster,

Resolved, That the prisoners who have been inlisted into the continental army, be discharged, and that no more be inlisted.

Ordered, That a copy of the above be sent to the committee of Lancaster.

The committee, to whom sundry letters were referred, on the 27th ||instant,|| from General Washington and others, brought in their report; Whereupon,

Resolved, That Mr. Barbarie, owner of the sloop and cargo said to have been taken by the enemy, and retaken by one of the continental vessels of war, ought to make and prosecute his claim to the same, before the court appointed, or to be appointed, by the government of the colony to which the said sloop and cargo were carried, to hear and determine causes civil and maritime, where a process ought to be instituted to confirm the re-capture, and adjust the salvage.

[1] The letter of Stirling is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 162, folio 388. That of the Committee of Trenton is in No. 68, folio 59. That of St. Clair is in No. 161, folio 485. That of Maxwell is in No. 78, XV, folio 7. A memorandum supplied by Maxwell is in No. 41, VI, folio 1.

The committee appointed to confer with Colonel Maxwell, brought in their report; Whereupon,

Resolved, That Mr. Thomas Lowry, commissary for the battalions in New Jersey, be directed to procure all necessaries, except arms, for Colonel Maxwell's regiment immediately; and that the cost of the cloathing, and other articles absolutely essential, which the non-commission officers and privates are to pay for, be by the said commissary procured forthwith, the cost thereof to be deducted out of the pay of the said non-commissioned officers and soldiers; and that the convention, or committee of safety of New Jersey, do get the arms, already ordered, with all possible expedition, and afford Mr. Lowry all assistance in the execution of the above:

That the company in the said regiment which is nearest being furnished, be supplied by any arms and necessaries in said battalion, and marched off for Canada, and that the other companies be furnished and marched as soon as possible.

The Congress, taking into consideration the letter from Lord Stirling,

Resolved, That the private adventures of the captain and mates of the transport *Blue Mountain Valley*, be delivered up to them, ||and that they be permitted to return to England.||

The delegates for Massachusetts laid before Congress an account of their appointment; by which it appears, that the hon. John Hancock, Esq^{r} M^{r} Samuel Adams, John Adams, Esq^{r} Robert Treat Paine, Esq^{r} Elbridge Gerry, Esq^{r} are elected to represent said colony in Congress, for the year 1776.[1]

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

[1] See *Journals*, February 9, 1776, p. 122, *post*.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1776

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of the delegates of Virginia, for the sum of 333 1/3 dollars, for the use of Mr. J. Walker, one of the commissioners for Indian affairs in the southern department, the said delegates to be accountable.

Resolved, That a member be added to the committee on the state of the treasury, in the room of Mr. [Thomas] Cushing.

The member chosen, Mr. S[amuel] Adams.

Resolved, That General Prescot, who is confined a close prisoner in the gaol of Philadelphia, be allowed the attendance of his servant, and in case his health requires it, that he be allowed the attendance of a physician.

Resolved, That the committee of safety for Pensylvania be directed to take the parole of such officers who are prisoners as are now in Philadelphia, and order them to their respective places of residence.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on establishing posts or expresses, and after debate,

Resolved, That the same be referred for farther consideration; and that, in the mean while, Dr. [Benjamin] Franklin be directed to write to post masters, and enquire on what terms expresses can be procured.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1776

Two letters from General Schuyler, 22 and 25 [23] January, with an account of his expedition to Tryon county, with 9 enclosures,[1] ||despatches from Canada,

[1] The letters of Schuyler are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 153, I, folios 406, 414.

and other papers, ||being received, were read, and referred to a committee of three.

Members chosen: Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. E[dward] Rutledge, and Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean.

General Schuyler's receipt for £7,829 9 0 ||Pennsylvania currency, equal to 20,878.5 dollars, sent him by order of the 30th of December,|| delivered him by the hands of Mr. Tench Tilghman, was laid before Congress.

A letter from Colonel Wayne of this day being read,

Resolved, That Colonel Wayne be directed to quarter his batallion in and near Chester, until the farther orders of Congress, or a committee of Congress, for that purpose appointed.

Ordered, That the secretary deliver to Mr. J. Mease a copy of Colonel Wayne's letter, so far as respects supplying his batallion with necessaries.

The committee to whom the memorial of Matthias Aspden was referred, brought in their report: which being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That Mr. Aspden, be permitted to export in the sloop *Tryal*, consigned to him from Port-au-Prince, the produce or manufactures of these colonies, (horned cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry, and lumber for making casks, excepted) to Port-au-Prince, to the amount of 1800 pounds Pensylvania currency:

That the above permission be not drawn into precedent, and that Mr. Aspden take every possible precaution to avoid all British men of war, and cutters on the voyage.

The committee to whom the memorial of H. Keppele and John Steinmetz was referred, brought in their report: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the memorialists have no just claim to satisfaction or reparation for the loss of their ship and

cargo, seized by one of the king's ships of war, and detained by Admiral Graves and General Howe, either out of the continental treasury, or out of the value of the cloathing sent hither to supply the British troops at Boston, and intercepted and disposed of to the use of the American army.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to take an account of the prisoners, the names of the officers, and their places of residence, and report the same to Congress.

The members, Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, Mr. [Richard] Smith, and Mr. [Henry] Wisner.

A memorial from Samson Occum was read, and referred to the committee on Indian affairs.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Monday next.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1776

Resolved, That General Schuyler be directed to have the arms of such of the troops marching to Canada, as pass through Albany, carefully examined there; and such of them as are deficient and want repair, exchanged for good effective arms taken from the tories, and order those exchanged and left, to be repaired.

The committee to whom General Schuyler's letters were referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration: thereupon,

Resolved, That General Schuyler has proceeded in disarming such inhabitants of the county of Tryon, in the colony of New York, as were disaffected, and providing for the future tranquillity of those parts, with fidelity, prudence, and expedition, and at the same time with a proper temper towards that deluded people, and thereby performed a meritorious service:

That the cheerful and ready assistance of those who accompanied General Schuyler in his march to the county of Tryon, and their useful services in that expedition, discovered such a patriotic spirit, that it is hoped none of them will allow their countrymen to entertain a suspicion that any ignoble motive actuated them, by requiring a pecuniary reward, especially when they were employed in suppressing a mischief arising in their own neighbourhood:

That the resolution of Congress of the 8th day of last month, for sending shipwrights from the cities of New York and Philadelphia, to build batteaus at Ticonderoga, be superseded; and that General Schuyler be desired to employ any such artificers, as he shall think proper, in in that business:

That General Schuyler be desired to issue warrants for compleating the regiment directed to be raised in New York, for the service of Canada; and that it be recommended to the convention of that colony to appoint such officers thereof, as General Schuyler hath nominated:

That the appointments of Mr. Hubbard Brown, to be conductor of artillery, Gysbert Marselis, Esq^{r} to be barrack master, Mr. Peter Schuyler to take charge of the arms, and Mr. Philip Van Rensselaer, to be store keeper at Albany, by General Schuyler, be confirmed; and that he be desired to inform Congress of the proper salaries to be annexed to those offices:

That General Schuyler be desired to procure skilful persons to assist General Wooster in exploring the river St. Lawrence, and to construct the armed boats to be kept there, according to a former resolution of Congress:

That the bounty given by General Schuyler for encouraging men to enter into the Canadian service be approved of, in consideration of the severe climate and inclement season:

That by the resolution of Congress of the 8th day of last month, respecting the provisions and stores to be sent to Fort George, it was intended as General Schuyler understood it, that he should be supplied with such of those articles as he should require:

That General Schuyler be desired to employ such batteau men as are in and near Albany, instead of those it was recommended to the convention of New York to procure, upon the best terms he can, and to acquaint Congress for what wages they will serve.

That Captain —— Wyncoop[1] be employed under Commodore Douglass, in the naval department.

The committee to whom the memorial of Samson Occum, one of the Mohegan Indians, in Connecticut, was referred, brought in their report: which being considered,

Resolved, That a friendly commerce between the people of the United Colonies and the Indians, and the propagation of the gospel, and the cultivation of the civil arts among the latter, may produce many and inestimable advantages to both; and that the commissioners for Indian affairs be desired to consider of proper places in their respective departments for the residence of ministers and school masters, and report the same to the Congress:

That the commissioners for Indian affairs in the northern department be desired to enquire of Mr. Jacob Fowler, of the Montauke tribe of Indians, on Long Island, and Mr. Joseph Johnson, of the Mohegan, upon what terms they will reside among the Six Nations of Indians, and instruct them in the Christian religion.

Ordered, That General Schuyler's narrative of his march into Tryon county be published in the public papers.

Resolved, That Mr. Dohicky Arundel, who was recommended to the notice of Congress by Mr. [Francis]

[1] Jacobus Wynkoop.

Lewis, be desired to repair to General Schuyler, and that General Schuyler be directed to examine him, and if he finds him capable, and suitably qualifyed, to employ him in the artillery service in Canada.

Dr. T. Cadwalader having, in a letter to the president, represented, "that, he was sent for by General Prescot last Saturday night, and found him very ill, his old wound broke out again, he complained of great pain, the orifice was swelled, and hard; he had a fever and hoarseness; the wound discharges a large quantity of thin matter," and farther representing that from the dampness of the room he is apprehensive "it will endanger the general's life, if he remains there long"; whereupon,

Resolved, That Dr. Cadwalader be desired to provide a proper lodging for General Prescot, and that said General Prescot be removed from the gaol to that lodging, and there kept under a guard.

That the commanding officer of the troops in the barracks of Philadelphia, be directed to keep a proper guard over General Prescot.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1776

A letter from the committee of safety of New York dated —— was read, informing that General Clinton was arrived at New York, but that it was apprehended his destination was to the southward.

Ordered, That a copy of the said letter be sent to the southern colonies.

The Congress, being informed that Col. Heard having performed the service enjoined him, was ready to make a report of his proceedings,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to confer with Col. Heard, and receive his report:

The members chosen, Mr. [Stephen] Crane, Mr. E[dward] Rutledge, and Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean.

A petition from sundry captains of the New Jersey batallions was laid before Congress and read; which being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That the officers of the two first New Jersey batallions, be allowed the sum of 10/ ||= one and one third of a dollar|| for every recruit by them raised, and that has passed muster.

A letter from the committee of Reading, in Berks county, was laid before Congress, informing that a number of prisoners, were arrived there, ||and desiring to know how they are to be supported;||[1]

Resolved, That the same be referred to the committee appointed to contract for supplying the prisoners.

As two of the members of the said committee are absent,

Resolved, That two new members be added to said committee.

The members chosen, Mr. [James] Wilson and Mr. [Oliver] Wolcott.

The Committee on the regulations of trade, ||after the first of March next,|| brought in their report, which was read, and referred to Thursday next, to a committee of the whole.

Resolved, That General Schuyler be desired to encourage suttlers to attend the army in Canada; and return such specie as they shall receive for the articles they supply it with, to the commissary, who shall draw orders, to be countersigned by the general, for the amount thereof, upon the president; by which means a sufficient stock

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 69, I, folio 91.

may be in hand to pay off the soldiers, and the risque and expence of sending money for that purpose may be avoided.

The committee appointed to confer with Col. Heard returned and laid before Congress a list of the names of 19 persons taken into custody by Colonel Heard by order of Congress, and brought to Philadelphia; also two oaths taken by a number of the inhabitants of Long Island; one upon delivering up their arms, and the other respecting their future conduct.

||The names of the prisoners are Benjamin Whitehead, Joseph French, John Polhemus, Nathaniel Moor, Samuel Hallet, William Weyman, John Shoals, John Willet, Gilbert Van Wyck, Daniel Kissam, Jacob Mott, Gabriel G. Ludlow, Charles Hicks, Samuel Martin, Samuel Clowes, Thomas Smith, George Weeks, David Brooks, John Townsend.||

Ordered, That the said 19 prisoners be sent to New York, and delivered to the order of the convention of that colony, who are requested to confine or secure the said persons, until an enquiry be had by the convention into their conduct, and report thereof made to this Congress.

That the committee confer with Colonel Heard about the mode of sending them.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due, on several certificates produced by George Kennedy, the sum of £160.3.3=427.1 dollars, that £127 1 8 of said sum ||=338.9 dollars,|| being for riffles, &c. furnished Captain Morgan's company of rifflemen from Virginia, ought to be charged to the said company, and the remainder to the continent.

||*Ordered*, That the same be paid.||

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to consider ~~regulations for exporting naval stores for the use of~~

~~the United Colonies~~ and bring in a resolution respecting the exportation of naval stores for the public service:

The members chosen, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, Mr. [Francis] Lewis, Mr. [Samuel] Ward, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, and Mr. S[amuel] Adams.

||Adjourned to ten o'clock to Morrow.||

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1776

Resolved, That the sum of 8 dollars be paid to Peter Webbers, an express, for the time he has been detained in town.

Two letters from Lord Stirling, dated 2 and 5 February, with sundry enclosures, were read,[1] and referred to Mr. [Samuel] Chase, Mr. [Edward] Rutledge, and Mr. [George] Wythe.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on the letter from the ~~president of the convention~~ ~~of~~ committee of safety for New Jersey, respecting ~~the disposition of~~ the prisoners; and, after debate,

Resolved, That the same be re-committed ||to the committee who brought it in,|| and that the committee appointed to take an account of the prisoners be added to the committee who brought this report. ~~and that the said committee as now formed have it in charge to see the orders of Congress respecting the prisoners carried into execution.~~

That it be an instruction to the committee to examine the capitulations entered into with the prisoners at the time of their surrender, to have the paroles of the officers taken, to order them to their respective places of residence, and to see that the capitulations be duly observed, and the orders of Congress, respecting the prisoners,

[1] These letters are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 162, folios 398, 408.

punctually carried into execution, and, finally, make a return to Congress of the paroles of the officers, their names, and places of residence, and also the numbers of the privates, and where placed.

As several of the two former committees are absent, ||viz. Mr. [Samuel] Adams, Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, and Mr. [Richard] Smith,||

Resolved, That two more members be added ~~to those of the former committee who are present~~:

The members chosen, Mr. [James] Wilson and Mr. [Oliver] Wolcott.

The ||committee|| now is Mr. [Samuel] Adams, Mr. [Thomas] McKean, Mr. [Richard] Smith, Mr. [James] Wilson and Mr. [Oliver] Wolcott.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of Mr. J[ames] Mease, for the sum of 10,000 dollars, for the use of the batallions ordered to be raised in Pensylvania, he to be accountable:

That a like order be drawn in favour of the Naval Committee, for the sum of 20,000 dollars, to enable them to discharge the debts by them contracted, the said committee to be accountable:

That the sum of 250,000 dollars be sent to the pay master general, for the use of the army at Cambridge.

The committee on the letter from Reading, reported, that they have had a conference with David Franks, Esq^{r} agent to the contractors for victualling the king's troops, who says he will order rations to be issued to the prisoners lately brought to Reading: Whereupon,

Resolved, That D. Franks, Esq^{r} be allowed to victual the prisoners at Reading, and to sell his bills to defray the expence thereof:

Resolved, That directions be given to Henry Holler to furnish the said prisoners with fuel and other necessaries.

A memorial from Murray, Sansom & Co. Jacob Watson, and Frederick Rhinelander, of the city of New York, was ||presented to Congress and|| read:

Resolved, That the same be referred to a committee of three:

The members chosen, Mr. [[1]] Lee, Mr. [Thomas] Nelson, and Mr. [George] Read.

A petition of Pierre Le Fargue was laid before Congress and read,

Resolved, That the same be referred to the Secret Committee.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to inspect the Journals, and prepare a list of the matters yet unfinished.

The members chosen, Mr. E[dward] Rutledge, Mr. [James] Duane, and Mr. [Richard] Smith.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1776

Resolved, That the 250,000 voted yesterday, be sent to the pay master general, under the care of Mr. ||Colonel|| Bull, and two other trusty persons.

The following sums to be charged to the pay master general, being paid by the treasurers:

August 23, 1775. On a draught of General Washington, to John Mease, £100 Pensylvania currency [=266 2-3 dollars.]

Nov. 27, 1775. On a draught of James Warren, pay master general to Doctr. Franklin, the sum of 7,111 dollars.

Feb. 2, 1776. On draught of ditto Cox and Furman, the sum of 1000 dollars.

Feb. 6. On ditto to John Beane, 750 dollars.

[1] Probably Richard Henry Lee.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to contract with a proper person for supplying Colonel Wayne's batallion with the rations allowed them.

That it be an instruction to said committee to contract with some proper person for supplying the Pensylvania troops on the west side of Susquehanna; and also to contract with a proper person to supply the batallion ordered to be raised in the lower counties on Delaware, while in that government.

The members chosen, Mr. [John] Morton, Mr. [Francis] Lewis, and Mr. [James] Wilson.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Mr. Tench Tilghman, for charges &c. in escorting a sum of money from Philadelphia to General Schuyler, the sum of £107.11.7=286 9/10 dollars.

To Azariah Dunham on several certificates for provisions to several riffle companies, the sum of £7 15 0 lawful=25 8/10 dollars.

To Melchior Meng, for waggon-hire, in carrying money to Cambridge, the sum of £28 10=76 dollars.

To Moses Gale, for the entertainment of Captain Cluggage's company of rifflemen, the sum of £3.17.0 New York currency=9 7/10 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Henry Wisner, Esq[r].

To John B. Scott, for expences in conducting General Prescot from Trenton to Philadelphia, the sum of £5.7.5 =14 3/10 dollars.

To George Benner, for waggon-hire, in carrying money from Philadelphia to General Schuyler, November last, the sum of £14.12.6=39 dollars.

To Dennis Sneeden, for ferriage, provisions, &c. the sum of £20.5 New York currency, =50 6/10 dollars, to be paid to John Alsop, Esq[r].

To Jesse Jones, for horse hire, the sum of £3.5.0=8 7/10 dollars, to be paid to Mr. Dealing.

To Mark Bird, the sum of £2.4.0 for necessaries to several prisoners, =5 8/10 dollars.

To George Meade & Co. on several certificates, the sum of £39.3.0$^{3}/_{4}$=104 4/10 dollars, of which £37.3.9 [99.2] being for riffles furnished to Captain Hugh Stephenson's company, ought to be charged to the said company, and the remaining sum of £1.19.3$^{3}/_{4}$ being for provisions is a continental expence.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

The committee farther reported, that Mr. M'Kean had laid before them, an account of the application of 40 dollars put in his hands by Congress, by which it appears, that there remains in his hands, the sum of £5 16=15.4 dollars.

Ordered, That the same be paid into the hands of T[imothy] Matlack, he to be accountable.

The Committee on the disposition of prisoners, reported the form of a parole to be signed by the officers, which being read, was agreed to as follows:

I being made a prisoner of war, by the army of the thirteen United Colonies in North America, do promise and engage, on my word and honor, and on the faith of a gentleman, to depart from hence immediately to , in the province of , being the place of my election; and there, or within six miles thereof, to remain during the present war between Great Britain and the said United Colonies, or until the Congress of the said United Colonies shall order otherwise; and that I will not directly or indirectly, give any intelligence whatsoever to the enemies of the United Colonies, or do or say any thing in opposition to, or in prejudice of, the measures and proceedings of any Congress for the said colonies, during the present troubles, or until I am duly exchanged or discharged.

Given under my hand, this day of , A. D. 1776.

The Secret Committee, to whom the petition of Mr. Pierre Le Fargue was referred, brought in their report, Whereupon,

Resolved, That Mr. Pierre Le Fargue be permitted to load the sloop, in which he imported a small quantity of powder and arms, with the produce of these colonies (horned cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, and lumber for making of casks excepted) and export the same to Martinique. And that the said Mr. Pierre Le Fargue do take every possible precaution to avoid all British men of war and cutters on his voyage, and use his utmost endeavours to import into these colonies the powder and arms mentioned in his memorial, and proposed to be imported by him.

The committee on the memorial of Murray, Sansom and Co. &c. brought in their report, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

A memorial from the committee of safety [of Pennsylvania,] was laid before Congress, respecting the erecting of powder mills:

Ordered, To lie on the table.

Resolved, That the sum of 100 dollars, be paid to Mr. Dohicky Arundel, and that he be directed immediately to repair to General Schuyler:

That a quarter cask of powder be delivered to Captain Craig, of Colonel St. Clair's batallion, for the use of his company:

That the sum of 12,000 dollars be advanced to the convention or committee of safety of New York, for the use of the ||four|| batallions to be raised there; that the same be transmitted by the delegates of that colony, the said convention or committee of safety to be accountable.

A letter from Dr. Rush and a memorial from Dr. Connolly, respecting the state of said Connolly's health, ||was presented to Congress and read:||[1] Whereupon,

[1] Dr. Rush's letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XIX, folio 19. Connolly's memorial is in No. 78, V, folio 29.

Resolved, That the said J. Connolly be allowed, at suitable times, to walk in the prison yard or hall, the gaol keeper taking especial care to prevent his escape.

The inhabitants of Richmond county, in the colony of New York, having refused to send deputies to represent them in provincial convention, and otherwise manifested their enmity and opposition to the system and measures adopted for preserving the liberties of America; and, as a just punishment for their inimical conduct, the inhabitants of that colony, having been prohibited by the convention, from all intercourse and dealings with the inhabitants of said county, and this Congress being informed by the committee of safety of that colony, that the freeholders of the said county did afterwards, without any opposition, elect deputies to represent them in provincial convention; but, as the proceedings against them had been submitted to the consideration of the Congress, it was apprehended the deputies could not be received, until the sense of Congress thereupon should be communicated:

Resolved, therefore, That it be referred to the said provincial convention, to take such measures respecting the admission of the deputies, and revoking the interdict upon the inhabitants of the said county, as they shall judge most expedient; provided, that the said deputies, and major part of the inhabitants of said county, shall subscribe the association entered into, in that colony.[1]

[1] "Agreeably to your instructions, we have represented to Congress the case of the inhabitants of Richmond County. As our Convention might be embarrassed, while it seemed doubtful to you whether they ought, without the intervention of Congress, to decide on the propriety of admitting the Deputies elected for that County, it became our duty to press for a speedy decision on this subject. It was readily agreed that the Convention ought to be the sole judges of their own Members; and on this principle the resolution, which we have the honour to enclose, was grounded." *New York Delegates to the New York Committee of Safety*, 11 February, 1776. Force, *American Archives*, Fourth Series, V, 263.

Resolved, That Monday, the 19th instant, be appointed for Dr. Smith, to deliver a funeral oration in honor of General Montgomery, and of those officers and soldiers who so magnanimously fought and fell with him in maintaining the principles of American liberty.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1776

The Delegates for ||Mr. Elbridge Gerry, from the|| Massachusetts bay, ||attended, and|| produced the credentials of their appointment; which were read, as follows:

In Council, *January 18, 1776.*

Whereas John Hancock, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, and Elbridge Gerry, Esqrs. have been chosen, by joint ballot of the two houses of assembly, to represent the colony of Massachusetts-Bay in New-England, in the American Congress, until the first day of January, A. D. 1777.

Resolved, That they, or any one or more of them, are hereby fully empowered with the delegates from the other American colonies, to concert, direct, and order such farther measures, as shall to them appear best calculated for the establishment of right and liberty to the American colonies, upon a basis permanent and secure, against the power and arts of the British administration, and guarded against any future encroachments of their enemies, with power to adjourn to such times and places, as shall appear most conducive to the public safety and advantage.

Read and accepted. Sent down for concurrence.

John Lowell, *Dep. Sec. pro tem.*

In the House of Representatives, *January 18, 1776.*

Read and concurred. And the secretary is hereby directed, as soon as may be, to signify to each of those gentlemen their appointment, with an attested copy of this order. Sent up for concurrence.

James Warren, *Speaker.*

In Council, *January 18, 1776.*

Read and concurred.

John Lowell, *Dep. Secretary pro tem.*

A true copy.

Attest, Perez Morton, *Deputy Secretary.*

A number of letters being received, were laid before Congress, and read, viz.

From General Washington, 24 and 30 January, with a copy of one to General Schuyler, 27 January, with a number of intercepted letters:[1]

From General Schuyler, 29, 31 January, and 1 February, 1776, enclosing ||copies of|| two letters from General Arnold, 11 and 12 January, and sundry other papers from Governor Trumbull, 3d February, with sundry enclosed papers:

Resolved, That the above letters be referred to a committee of five.

The members chosen, Mr. [Samuel] Chase, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. [John] Penn, Mr. [George] Wythe, and Mr. [Edward] Rutledge.

Two letters from the Convention of New Jersey, dated February 6, 1776; the one respecting tea referred for consideration to Monday next; the other, recommending proper persons for field officers of the third batallion, ordered to be raised in that colony:[2] Whereupon the Congress proceeded to an election, and

Elias Dayton was elected Colonel.

Anthony Walton White, lieutenant Colonel.

Francis Barber, Major.

[1] The letters of Washington are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folios 435 and 447. They are printed in the *Writings of Washington* (Ford), III, 371, 383. The letters of Schuyler are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 153, I, folios 478, 490, 494. Those of Arnold are in No. 162, folios 42, 50. That of Governor Trumbull is in No. 66, I, folio 71.

[2] These letters are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 68, folios 71, 73.

"We did not hesitate to determine that common report, often deceitful and always uncertain, ought not to be sufficient to contravene a known and established regulation; but, on a resolve being proposed for the purpose of putting a stop to this growing evil, one of the members informed us that he heard several of the Continental Delegates publickly declare, it was agreed in Congress that no notice should be taken of the sale or use of East India Teas in the Eastern Colonies." *Samuel Tucker to John Hancock*, 6 February, 1776. Force, *American Archives*, Fourth Series, IV, 948.

A Memorial from Mr. Kirkland was presented to Congress and read.

Ordered, To lie on the table.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the Committee on the second memorial of Sansom, Murray, & Co. &c. Whereupon,

Resolved, That the memorialists be permitted to make sale of their cargo of wheat in Connecticut, or else to proceed on their original voyage to Falmouth, in England, and a market under the office papers, and clearances, which the said vessel sailed with from New York in September last; and also subject to the former restrictions of Congress, respecting the appointment of a commander.[1]

Information being given to Congress that a quantity of powder, arms and salt petre was arrived,

Resolved, That the committee appointed on the 13th of last month, to purchase the salt petre then arrived, and have it manufactured, be directed and empowered to take every necessary measure to have the salt petre, now arrived, manufactured into gun powder with all possible expedition.

Resolved, That a copy of the paper relating to signals found among the intercepted letters, be sent to the commander of the fleet, and that the delegates of the several colonies be permitted to send to their respective conventions or committees of safety a copy of the said paper under a strong injunction to keep it secret.

Resolved, That two tons of the powder now arrived, ||belonging to the United Colonies,|| be returned to the committee of safety for Pensylvania, in part of that borrowed of them:

That the former order of Congress to grant one ton of

[1] See *Journals*, III, 354.

gun powder to the colony of North Carolina, be answered out of the powder belonging to the continent now arrived.

Ordered, That the committee appointed to manufacture the salt petre into gun powder, be directed to enquire and report to Congress a state of the powder, arms and salt petre arrived.

A memorial from Stacey Hepburn was presented to Congress and read:

Referred to a committee of three:

The members chosen, Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, Mr. [Thomas] Nelson, and Mr. [John] Penn.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Monday next.

The following incident is described by John Adams, in his Autobiography (*Writings*, III, p. 25.):

"I soon found there was a whispering among the partisans in opposition to independence, that I was interested; that I held an office under the new government of Massachusetts; that I was afraid of losing it, if we did not declare independence; and that I consequently ought not to be attended to. This they circulated so successfully, that they got it insinuated among the members of the legislature in Maryland, where their friends were powerful enough to give an instruction to their delegates in Congress, warning them against listening to the advice of interested persons, and manifestly pointing me out to the understanding of every one. This instruction was read in Congress. It produced no other effect upon me than a laughing letter to my friend, Mr. Chase, who regarded it no more than I did. These chuckles I was informed of, and witnessed for many weeks, and at length they broke out in a very extraordinary manner. When I had been speaking one day on the subject of independence, or the institution of governments, which I always considered as the same thing, a gentleman of great fortune and high rank arose and said, he should move, that no person who held an office under a new government should be admitted to vote on any such question, as they were interested persons. I wondered at the simplicity of this motion, but knew very well what to do with it. I rose from my seat with great coolness and deliberation; so far from expressing or feeling any resentment, I really felt gay, though as it happened, I preserved an unusual gravity in my countenance and air, and said, 'Mr. President, I will second the gentleman's motion, and I recommend it to the honorable gentleman to second another which I should make, namely, that no gentleman who holds any office under the old or present government should be admitted to vote on any such question, as they were interested persons.' The moment when this was pronounced, it flew like an electric stroke through every countenance in the room, for the gentleman who made the motion held as high an office under the old government as I did under the new, and many other members present held offices under the royal government. My friends accordingly were delighted with my retaliation, and the friends of my antagonist

were mortified at his indiscretion in exposing himself to such a retort. Finding the house in a good disposition to hear me, I added, I would go further, and cheerfully consent to a self-denying ordinance, that every member of Congress, before we proceeded to any question respecting independence, should take a solemn oath never to accept or hold any office of any kind in America after the revolution. Mr. Wythe, of Virginia, rose here, and said Congress had no right to exclude any of their members from voting on these questions; their constituents only had a right to restrain them; and that no member had a right to take, nor Congress to prescribe any engagement not to hold offices after the revolution or before. Again I replied, that whether the gentleman's opinion was well or ill founded, I had only said that I was willing to consent to such an arrangement. That I knew very well what these things meant. They were personal attacks upon me, and I was glad that at length they had been made publicly where I could defend myself. That I knew very well that they had been made secretly and circulated in whispers, not only in the city of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, but in the neighboring States, particularly Maryland, and very probably in private letters throughout the Union. I now took the opportunity to declare in public, that it was very true, the unmerited and unsolicited, though unanimous good will of the Council of Massachusetts, had appointed me to an important office, that of Chief Justice; that as this office was a very conspicuous station, and consequently a dangerous one, I had not dared to refuse it, because it was a post of danger, though by the acceptance of it, I was obliged to relinquish another office,—meaning my barrister's office—which was more than four times as profitable.[1] That it was a sense of duty, and a full conviction of an honest cause, and not any motives of ambition, or hopes of honor, or profit, which had drawn me into my present course. That I had seen enough already in the course of my own experience to know that the American cause was not the most promising road to profits, honors, power, or pleasure. That on the contrary, a man must renounce all these and devote himself to labor, danger and death, and very possibly to disgrace and infamy, before he was fit in my judgment, in the present state and future prospects of the country, for a seat in that Congress. This whole scene was a comedy to Charles Thomson, whose countenance was in raptures all the time. When all was over, he told me he had been highly delighted with it, because he had been witness to many of their conversations, in which they had endeavored to excite and propagate prejudices against me, on account of my office of Chief Justice. But he said I had cleared and explained the thing in such a manner that he would be bound I should never hear any more reflections on that head. No more, indeed, were made in my presence, but the party did not cease to abuse me in their secret circles on this account, as I was well informed. Not long afterwards, hearing that the Supreme Court in Massachusetts was organized and proceeding very well on the business of their circuits, I wrote my resignation of the office of Chief Justice, to the Council."

Adams was appointed Justice in October, 1775; he was absent from Philadelphia from December 6, 1775 to February 9, 1776, when he again took his seat in Congress.

[1] "I told the gentlemen that I should be much obliged, if they would find me a man who would accept of my office, or by passing the resolution furnish me with a justification for refusing it. In either case, I would subscribe my renunciation of that office before I left the room." *John Adams to Samuel Chase*, 14 June, 1776. *Writings*, IX, 396.

On February 10, he wrote his resignation. He describes the discussion as occurring after his return to Congress, but also says that "not long afterwards" he resigned. The instructions of the Maryland Convention were dated January 11, 1776; so that the incident must have occurred on February 9, as no session of Congress was held on the 10th. The paragraph of the instructions referred to was as follows:

"And we further instruct you to move for, and endeavour to obtain, a resolve of Congress, that no person who holds any military command in the Continental, or any Provincial regular forces, or marine service, nor any person who holds or enjoys any office of profit under the Continental Congress, or any Government assumed since the present controversy with Great Britain began, or which shall hereafter be assumed, or who directly or indirectly receives the profits of such command or office, shall, during the time of his holding or receiving the same, be eligible to sit in Congress".

Of the Maryland delegates to the Continental Congress all, except Robert Goldsborough and William Paca, were also members of the Maryland Convention, which sat from December 7, 1775 to January 18, 1776. Paca was at Philadelphia, but returning to Maryland some time in December, the colony was for a time unrepresented in the Congress. On December 9, 1775, the Convention acted, and after unsuccessfully requesting John Hall and Robert Goldsborough to attend, chose Robert Alexander and John Rogers, then members of its own body. The Journals of the Continental Congress show that Rogers received committee appointments on January 19 and 27; that Alexander was named on a committee on January 24; Paca, on January 30, and Chase on February 7 and 9. Chase did not raise the point of the instructions, and it is hardly probable that so important a matter would have rested with Alexander or Rogers. Circumstances thus point to Paca.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1776

A letter from Major General Lee, dated 9th February, was presented to Congress and read,[1] wherein he informs that a transport with troops was arrived there ||at New-York,|| ~~altho it is said that General Clinton gave his honor that not a soldier was destined for New York~~ that more might be expected, and, therefore, that a farther reinforcement was necessary to ||secure and|| defend that place: ~~The Congress taking this letter and request into consideration,~~ Whereupon,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention or committee of safety of New Jersey, immediately to send detachments of the minute men equal to a battalion, under proper officers, to New York, there to put themselves under the command of Major General Lee:

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 158, folio 13.

That it be also recommended to the committee of safety for Pensylvania, immediately to send detachments of the four batallions of associators in this city [Philadelphia] equal to a batallion ~~properly equipped~~ to New York, there to put themselves under the command of Major-General Lee.

Resolved, That the colonels of the Pensylvania batallions ||ordered to be raised in Pennsylvania,|| be ordered to make an immediate return to Congress of the number and condition of the men inlisted, the places where they now are, and the manner in which they are appointed.

That a copy of the above be forwarded to the commanding Officers of each of the batallions.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to send to New York, one ton of the powder belonging to the United Colonies, and that the same be delivered to the order of General Lee:

Resolved, That the said committee be empowered to purchase what powder and arms arrive belonging to private persons, on the best terms they can, for the use of the United Colonies; and that they furnish with the fire arms they purchased such of the three remaining companies of the first Pensylvania batallion, ordered to Canada, ~~who are now in the barracks and deficient in arms with good arms~~ as may want them, in order that they may immediately proceed on their march.

Resolved, That fifty tons of salt petre be delivered by the Secret Committee to the committee of safety for the province of Pensylvania, who are requested to have the same manufactured into gun powder, in the cheapest and most expeditious manner; and that this Congress will confirm any contracts made for the above purpose:

That 10 tons ||of salt petre|| be by them sent to the Late Judge [J. R.] Livingston's powder mill, in the col-

ony of New York, and that he, owner of said mill, be desired to manufacture it into gun powder, as soon as possible, and to enlarge his works, if it can conveniently be done:

That 10 tons ||of salt petre|| be ||also by them|| sent to the council of ||the colony of|| Massachusetts bay, and that they be desired to have it manufactured into gun powder, with all possible expedition, and sent to General Washington, for the use of the army, under his command.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee of inspection for the county of Chester, to aid Colonel Wayne in procuring blankets for his batallion.

The Congress being informed that a gentleman was arrived from Canada, who had some matters of consequence to communicate,[1]

Ordered, That the Committee of Correspondence do confer with him and report to Congress.

||Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.||

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1776

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers for the sum of 800 dollars, in favor of John Chapman, to discharge a draught of the pay master general, dated the 28th of December in favour of William Thompson, Esq[r] the said sum to be charged to the account of the pay master general.

Sundry letters were presented and read, viz.

From the convention of New Jersey, 10th February; from Messrs. Dayton and Barber, 12th ditto; from Captain John Neville, [dated Pittsburg,] 1 February; enclosing a letter from John Gibson, January 20th.[2]

[1] Prudent la Jeunesse. See *Journals*, February 14, 1776, *post*.

[2] The letter from the Convention of New Jersey is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 68, folio 77. That of Dayton and Barber is in No. 78, VII, folio 25.

Resolved, That the two last be referred to the committee appointed to take into consideration the Indian affairs, in the middle department:

That the two former be committed to a committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. [Richard] Smith, Mr. [Josiah] Bartlett, and Mr. [[1]] Adams.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of the committee of safety of the ||three lower counties on|| Delaware government, for the sum of 8000 dollars for the use of the batallion raising there, the said committee to be accountable:

That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favor of James Mease, for the sum of 10,000 dollars for the use of the Pensylvania batallions; he to be accountable:

Resolved, That Mr. Mease be directed to supply the troops in barracks ||near Philadelphia,|| with wooden bowls, buckets, and other necessaries.

That it be recommended to the committee of safety for Pensylvania, in case the barracks near Philadelphia cannot contain the troops raised in said colony, that they cause part of them to be quartered in the Pest house and old gaol of this city.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of Colonel Bull, for the sum of 150 dollars, to defray his expences in carrying money to Cambridge, ||he to be accountable.||

The committee on the petition of Stacey Hepburn, brought in their report, which was agreed to as follows:

That the said petitioner be permitted to load the sloop *Dolphin*, with the produce of these colonies, (live stock and lumber for making casks excepted) and to transport

[1] John Adams makes no entry of this committee in his "Autobiography," but that is not necessarily good evidence that he was not the member.

the same to Hispaniola, he promising to use his utmost endeavours to remit the amount of such cargo in military stores, into some port of this continent, as soon as possible.

The Committee appointed to prepare a resolution for the exportation of naval stores, brought in the same, which was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That when naval stores shall be wanted in any of the United Colonies, the assembly, convention, or committee of safety of such colony, may entrust a proper person or persons to import the same, taking sufficient security of him or them, that they will faithfully use their best endeavours to import the same into such port or ports as the said assembly, convention, or committee of safety shall direct, and, as much as possible, to avoid all British men of war and cutters; giving him or them, a certificate or certificates of the naval stores wanted, and also of his having given the said security: And that it be recommended to the convention, council of safety, and committees of observation and inspection of North Carolina, upon receiving such certificates, to permit the person or persons producing the same, to export the naval stores wanted by the colony applying for the same to such colony:

That it be further recommended to the said convention, council of safety, and committees of inspection and observation in North Carolina, to give permission to such vessels as may have arrived in that colony, for those articles, or such of the vessels belonging to that colony, as they may think proper, to export naval stores to any of the United Colonies, they taking security as in the other cases above mentioned.

Resolved, That the pay and subsistence of two of the batallions directed ~~by the convention of Virginia~~ to be

raised in the colony of Virginia, commence from the first day of November last; from which time they have been in [actual] service.

The convention of Virginia having recommended persons for field officers of the six batallions ordered to be raised in that colony, the Congress proceeded to an election, when,

Patrick Henry, Esq^{r} was elected Colonel, of the first batallion, William Christian, Esq^{r} lieutenant colonel, Frank Eppes, Esq^{r} major.

William Woodford, Esq^{r} colonel, of the second batallion, Charles Scott, Esq^{r} lieutenant colonel, Alexander Spottswood, Esq^{r} Major.

Hugh Mercer, Esq^{r} Colonel, of the third batallion, George Weedon, Esq^{r} lieutenant colonel, Thomas Marshall, Esq^{r} Major.

Adam Stephen, Esq^{r} Colonel, of the fourth batallion, Isaac Reade, Esq. lieutenant colonel, Robert Lawson, Esq^{r} Major.

William Peachy, Esq^{r} Colonel, of the fifth batallion, William Crawford, Esq^{r} lieutenant colonel, Josiah Parker, Esq^{r} Major.

Mordecai Buckner, Esq^{r} Colonel, of the sixth batallion, Thomas Elliott, Esq^{r} lieutenant colonel, James Hendricks, Esq^{r} Major.

That the president fill up the commissions to the above officers, and that he send blank commissions to the convention of Virginia, to be by them filled up for the officers in the said batallions, under the rank of a Major.

Resolved, That the deputy muster master general be directed to muster the batallion raised in ||the three lower counties on|| Delaware government, and those raised in Pensylvania, and make return to Congress.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to

consider into what departments the middle and southern colonies ought to be formed, in order that the military operations of the colonies may be carried on in a regular and systematic manner:

The members chosen, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, Mr. [James] Wilson, Mr. [John] Penn, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, and Mr. [Robert] Alexander.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of the delegates of Virginia, for the sum of 20,000 dollars, for the use of the batallions ordered to be raised there, the convention of that colony to be accountable.

Resolved, That Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean be desired to request the committee of inspection ||and observation for the city and liberties of Philadelphia,|| not to proceed in passing any censures on the venders, and users of Tea, till farther orders from Congress.

Resolved, That the detachments marching from Philadelphia to New York, under the command of Colonel Dickinson, be allowed for subsistence, while on their march, the sum of one and $^1/_3$ dollar per week for the privates and non commissioned officers; and that the commissioned officers be allowed in proportion, according to the rations allotted them; that they receive the same pay as the four Pensylvania batallions, from the time they begin their march.

That a committee of three be appointed to consider the best method of subsisting the troops in New York, and what sum of money it will be necessary to send thither, and what sum ought to be advanced to Colonel Dickinson.

The members chosen, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, Mr. [James] Duane, and Mr. [James] Wilson.

A petition from Mr. Bernard Romans, was ||presented to Congress, and|| read:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention of

New York, to pay Mr. Bernard Romans up to the 9th day of this month.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of Samuel Fairlamb (who has engaged to supply Colonel Wayne's batallion, quartered in and near Chester, with rations at the rate of 7d Pensylvania currency per ration) for the sum of 600 dollars, to enable him to execute his contract, he to be accountable.

The committee appointed to prepare an address to the inhabitants of these Colonies, brought in a draft, which was read:

To the Inhabitants of the Colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the Counties of New Castle, Kent and Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, from their Delegates in Congress.

Friends and Countrymen.

History, we believe, cannot furnish an Example of a Trust, higher and more important than that, which we have received from your Hands. It comprehends in it every Thing that can rouse the Attention and interest the Passions of a People, who will not reflect Disgrace upon their Ancestors nor degrade themselves, nor transmit Infamy to their Descendants. It is committed to us at a Time when every Thing dear and valuable to *such* a People is in imminent Danger. This Danger arises from those, whom we have been accustomed to consider as our Friends; who really were so, while they continued friendly to themselves; and who will again be so, when they shall return to a just Sense of their own Interests. The Calamities, which threaten us, would be attended with the total Loss of those Constitutions, formed upon the venerable Model of British Liberty, which have been long our Pride and Felicity. To avert those *Calamities* we are under the disagreeable Necessity of making temporary Deviations from those *Constitutions*.

Such is the Trust reposed in us. Much does it import you and us, that it be executed with Skill and with Fidelity. That we have discharged it with Fidelity, we enjoy the Testimony of a good Conscience. How far we have discharged it with Skill must be determined by you,

who are our Principals and Judges, to whom we esteem it our Duty to render an Account of our Conduct. To enable you to judge of it, as we would wish you to do, it is necessary that you should be made acquainted with the *Situation*, in which your Affairs have been placed; the *Principles*, on which we have acted; and the *Ends*, which we have kept and still keep in View.

That all Power was originally in the People—that all the Powers of Government are derived from them—that all Power, which they have not disposed of, still continues theirs—are Maxims of the *English* Constitution, which, we presume, will not be disputed. The Share of Power, which the King derives from the People, or, in other Words, the Prerogative of the Crown, is well known and precisely ascertained: It is the same in *Great Britain* and in the Colonies. The Share of Power, which the House of Commons derives from the People, is likewise well known: The Manner in which it is conveyed is by Election. But the House of Commons is not elected by the Colonists; and therefore, from *them* that Body can derive no Authority.

Besides; the Powers, which the House of Commons receives from its Constituents, are entrusted by the Colonies to their Assemblies in the several Provinces. Those Assemblies have Authority to propose and assent to Laws for the Government of their Electors, in the same Manner as the House of Commons has Authority to propose and assent to Laws for the Government of the Inhabitants of *Great Britain.* Now the same collective Body cannot delegate the same Powers to distinct representative Bodies. The undeniable Result is, that the *House of Commons* neither has nor can have any Power deriv'd from the *Inhabitants of these Colonies.*

In the Instance of ~~levying~~ imposing *Taxes*, this Doctrine is clear and familiar: It is true and just in every *other* Instance. If it would be incongruous and absurd, that the same Property should be liable to be taxed by two Bodies independent of each other; would less Incongruity and Absurdity ensue, if the same Offence were to be subjected to different and perhaps inconsistent Punishments? Suppose the Punishment directed by the Laws of one Body to be Death, and that directed by those of the other Body be Banishment for Life; how could both Punishments be inflicted?

Though the Crown possesses the same Prerogative over the Colonies, which it possesses over the Inhabitants of *Great Britain*: Though the Colonists delegate to their Assemblies the same Powers which our Fellow Subjects in *Britain* delegate to the House of Commons: Yet

by some inexplicable Mystery in Politics, which is the Foundation of the odious System that we have so much Reason to deplore, *additional* Powers over you are ascribed to the Crown, as a Branch of the British Legislature: And the House of Commons—*a Body which acts solely by derivative Authority*—is supposed entitled to exert over you an Authority, which *you* cannot *give*, and which *it* cannot *receive*.

The Sentence of universal Slavery gone forth against you is; *that the British Parliament have Power to make Laws*, WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT, *binding you in* ALL *Cases whatever*. Your Fortunes, your Liberties, your Reputations, your Lives, every Thing that can render you and your Posterity happy, all are the Objects of the Laws: All must be enjoyed, impaired or destroyed as the Laws direct. And are you the Wretches, who have Nothing that you *can* or *ought* to call *your own?* Were all the rich Blessings of Nature, all the Bounties of indulgent Providence poured upon you, not for your own Use; but for the Use of those, upon whom neither Nature nor Providence hath bestowed Qualities or Advantages superior to yours?

From this Root of Bitterness numerous are the Branches of Oppression that have sprung. Your most undoubted and highest-priz'd Rights have been invaded: Heavy and unnecessary Burthens have been imposed on you: Your Interests have been neglected, and sometimes wantonly sacrificed to the Interests, and even to the Caprice of others. When you felt, for your Enemies have not yet made any Laws to divest you of feeling, Uneasiness under your Greivances, and expressed it in the natural Tone of Complaint; your Murmurs were considered and treated as the Language of Faction, and your Uneasiness was ascribed to a restive Disposition, impatient of Controul.

In Proportion, however, as your Oppressions were multiplied and increased, your Opposition to them became firm and vigourous. Remonstrances succeeded Petitions: A Resolution carried into Effect, not to import Goods from *Great Britain* succeeded both. The Acts of Parliament then complained of were in Part, repealed. Your Good-Humour and unsuspicious Fondness returned. Short—alas! *too* short—was the Season allowed for indulging them. The former System of Rigour was renewed.

The Colonies, wearied with presenting fruitless Supplications and Petitions *separately;* or prevented, by arbitrary and abrupt Dissolutions of their Assemblies, from using even those fruitless Expedients for Redress, determined to *join* their Counsels and their Efforts. Many of the Injuries flowing from the unconstitutional and ill-advised Acts

of the British Legislature, affected all the Provinces equally; and even in those Cases, in which the Injuries were confined, by the Acts, to one or to a few, the *Principles*, on which they were made, extended to all. If common Rights, common Interests, common Dangers and common Sufferings are Principles of Union, what could be more natural than the Union of the Colonies?

Delegates authorised by the several Provinces from Nova Scotia to Georgia to represent them and act in their Behalf, met in GENERAL CONGRESS.

It has been objected, that this Measure was unknown to the Constitution; that the Congress was, of Consequence, an illegal Body; and that its Proceedings could not, in any Manner, be recognised by the Government of Britain. To those, who offer this Objection, and have attempted to vindicate, by its supposed Validity, the Neglect and Contempt, with which the Petition of that Congress to his Majesty was treated by the Ministry, we beg Leave, in our Turn, to propose, that they would explain the Principles of the Constitution, which warranted the *Assembly of the Barons at* RUNNINGMEDE, when MAGNA CHARTA was signed, the *Convention-Parliament* that recalled Charles 2d, and the *Convention of Lords and Commons* that placed King William on the Throne. When they shall have done this, we shall perhaps, be able to apply their Principles to prove the Necessity and Propriety of a Congress.

But the Objections of those, who have done so much and aimed so much against the Liberties of America, are not confined to the *Meeting* and the *Authority* of the Congress: They are urged with equal Warmth against the *Views* and *Inclinations* of those who composed it. We are told, in the Name of Majesty itself, "that the Authors and Promoters of this *desperate Conspiracy*", as those who framed his Majesty's Speech are pleased to term our *laudable Resistance;* "have, in the Conduct of it, derived great Advantage from the Difference of his Majesty's Intentions and theirs. That they meant only to amuse by vague Expressions of Attachment to the Parent State, and the strongest Protestations of Loyalty to the King, whilst they were preparing for a general Revolt. That on the Part of his Majesty and the Parliament, the Wish was rather to reclaim than to subdue." It affords us some Pleasure to find that the Protestations of Loyalty to his Majesty, which have been made, are allowed to be strong; and that Attachment to the Parent State is owned to be expressed. Those Protestations of Loyalty and Expressions of Attachment ought, by every

Rule of Candour, to be presumed to be sincere, unless Proofs evincing their Insincerity can be drawn from the Conduct of those who used them.

In examining the Conduct of those who directed the Affairs of the Colonies at the Time when, it is said, they were preparing for a general Revolt, we find it an easy Undertaking to shew, that they merited no Reproach from the British Ministry by making any Preparations *for that Purpose.* We wish it were as easy to shew, that they merited no Reproach from their Constituents, by neglecting the necessary Provisions *for their Security.* Has a single Preparation been made, which has not been found requisite for our Defense? Have we not been attacked in Places where fatal Experience taught us, we were not sufficiently prepared for a successful Opposition? On which Side of this unnatural Controversy was the *ominous Intimation* first given, that it must be decided by Force? Were Arms and Ammunition imported into *America*, before the Importation of them was prohibited? What Reason can be assigned for this Prohibition, unless it be this, that those who made it had determined upon such a System of Oppression, as they knew, would *force* the Colonies into Resistance? And yet, they "wished only to reclaim!"

The Sentiments of the Colonies, expressed in the Proceedings of their Delegates assembled in 1774 were far from being disloyal or disrespectful. Was it disloyal to offer a Petition to your Sovereign? Did your still are anxious Impatience for on Answer, which your *Hopes*, founded only on your *Wishes*, as you too soon experienced, flattered you would be a gracious one—did this Impatience indicate a Disposition only to amuse? Did the keen Anguish, with which the Fate of the Petition filled your Breasts, betray an Inclination to avail yourselves of the Indignity with which you were treated, for forwarding favourite Designs of Revolt?

Was the Agreement not to import Merchandise from *Great Britain* or *Ireland;* nor after the tenth Day of September last, to export our Produce to those Kingdoms and the *West Indies*—was this a disrespectful or an hostile Measure? Surely we have a Right to withdraw or to continue our own Commerce. Though the British Parliament have exercised a Power of *directing* and *restraining* our Trade; yet, among all their extraordinary Pretensions, we recollect no Instance of their attempting to *force* it contrary to our Inclinations. It was well known, before this Measure was adopted, that it would be detrimental to our own Interest, as well as to that of our fellow-Subjects. We

deplored it on both Accounts. We deplored the Necessity that produced it. But we were willing to sacrifice our Interest to any probable Method of regaining the Enjoyment of those Rights, which, by Violence and Injustice, had been infringed.

Yet even this peaceful Expedient, which Faction surely never suggested, has been represented, and by high Authority too, as a seditious and unwarrantable Combination. We are, we presume, the first Rebels and Conspirators, who commenced their Conspiracy and Rebellion with a System of Conduct, immediately and directly frustrating every Aim, which Ambition or Rapaciousness could propose: Those, whose Fortunes are desperate, may upon slighted Evidence be charged with desperate Designs: But how improbable is it, that the Colonists, who have been happy, and have known their Happiness in the quiet Possession of their Liberties; who see no Situation more to be desired, than that, in which, till lately, they have been placed; and whose warmest Wish is to be re-instaled in the Enjoyment of that Freedom, which they claim and are entitled to as Men and as British Subjects—how improbable is it that *such* would, without any Motives that could tempt even the most *profligate* Minds to Crimes, plunge themselves headlong into all the Guilt and Danger and Distress with which those that endeavour to overturn the Constitution of their Country are always surrounded and frequently overwhelmed?

The humble unaspiring Colonists asked only for "Peace, Liberty and Safety". This, we think, was a reasonable Request: Reasonable as it was, it has been refused. Our ministerial Foes, dreading the Effects, which our commercial Opposition might have upon their favourite Plan of reducing the Colonies to Slavery, were determined not to hazard it upon that Issue. They employed military Force to carry it into Execution. Opposition of Force by Force, or unlimited Subjection was now our only Alternative. Which of them did it become Freemen determined never to surrender that Character, to chuse? The Choice was worthily made. We wish for Peace—we wish for Safety: But we will not, to obtain either or both of them, part with our Liberty. The sacred Gift descended to us from our Ancestors: We cannot dispose of it: We are bound by the strongest Ties to transmit it, as we have received it, pure and inviolate to our Posterity.

We have taken up Arms in the best of Causes. We have adhered to the virtuous Principles of our Ancestors, who expressly stipulated, in their Favour, *and in ours*, a Right to resist every Attempt upon their Liberties. We have complied with our Engagements to our

Sovereign. He should be the *Ruler* of a *free* People: We will not, as far as his Character depends upon us, permit him to be degraded into a *Tyrant* over *Slaves.*

Our Troops are animated with the Love of Freedom. They have fought and bled and conquered in the Discharge of their Duty as good Citizens as well as brave Soldiers. Regardless of the Inclemency of the Seasons, and of the Length and Fatigue of the March, they go, with Chearfulness, wherever the Cause of Liberty and their Country requires their Service. We confess that they have not the Advantages arising from Experience and Discipline: But Facts have shewn, that native Courage warmed with Patriotism, is sufficient to counterbalance these Advantages. The Experience and Discipline of our Troops will daily increase: Their Patriotism will receive no Diminution: The longer those, who have forced us into this War, oblige us to continue it, the more formidable we shall become.[1]

The Strength and Resources of *America* are not confined to Operations *by Land.* She can exert herself likewise *by Sea.* Her Sailors are hardy and brave: She has all the Materials for Ship-building: Her Artificers can work them into Form. We pretend not to vie with the Royal Navy of England though that Navy had *its Beginnings:* But still we may be able in a great Measure to defend our own Coasts, and may intercept, as we have been hitherto successful in doing, Transports and Vessels laden with Stores and Provisions.

Possessed of so many Advantages; favoured with the Prospect of so many more; Threatened with the Destruction of our constitutional Rights; cruelly and illiberally attacked, because we will not subscribe to our own Slavery; ought we to be animated with Vigour, or to sink into Despondency? When the Forms of our Governments are, by those entrusted with the Direction of them, perverted from their original Design; ought we to submit to this Perversion? Ought we to sacrifice the *Forms*, when the Sacrifice becomes necessary for preserving the *Spirit* of our Constitution? Or ought we to neglect and neglecting, to lose the Spirit by a superstitious Veneration for the Forms? We regard those Forms, and wish to preserve them as long as we can consistently with higher Objects: But much more do we regard essential Liberty, which, at all Events, we are determined not to lose, but with our Lives. In contending for this Liberty, we are willing to go through good Report, and through evil Report.

[1] In this paragraph the pronouns of the first person have been changed in pencil to those of the second person.

In our present Situation, in which we are called to oppose an Attack upon your Liberties, made under bold Pretensions of Authority from that Power, to which the executive Part of Government is, in the ordinary Course of Affairs, committed—in this Situation, every Mode of Resistance, though directed by Necessity and by Prudence, and authorised by the Spirit of the Constitution, will be exposed to plausible Objections drawn from its Forms. Concerning such Objections, and the Weight that may be allowed to them, we are little solicitous. It will not discourage us to find ourselves represented as "labouring to enflame the Minds of the People in America, and openly avowing Revolt, Hostility and Rebellion." We deem it an Honour to "have raised Troops, and collected a naval Force"; and, *cloathed with the sacred Authority of the People, from* WHOM *all* LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY *proceeds* "to have exercised legislative, executive and judicial Powers." For what Purposes were those Powers instituted? For your Safety and Happiness. You and the World will judge whether those Purposes have been best promoted by us; or by those who claim the Powers, which they charge us with assuming.

But while we feel no Mortification at being misrepresented with Regard to the *Measures* employed by us for accomplishing the great Ends, which you have appointed us to pursue; we cannot sit easy under an Accusation, which charges us with laying aside those *Ends*, and endeavouring to accomplish *such as are very different.* We are accused of carrying on the War "for the Purpose of establishing an independent Empire".

We disavow the Intention. We declare, that what we aim at, and what we are entrusted by ~~our Constituents~~ you to pursue, *is the Defence and the Re-establishment of the constitutional Rights of the Colonies.* Whoever gives impartial Attention to the Facts, we have already stated, and to the Observations we have already made, must be fully convinced that all the Steps, which have been taken by us in this unfortunate Struggle, can be accounted for as rationally and as satisfactorily by supposing that the Defence and Re-establishment of their Rights were the Objects which the Colonists and their Representatives had in View; as by supposing that an independent Empire was their Aim. Nay, we may safely go farther and affirm, without the most distant Apprehension of being refuted, that many of those Steps can be accounted for rationally and satisfactorily only upon the former Supposition, and cannot be accounted for, in that Manner, upon the latter. The numerous Expedients that were tried, though fruitlessly,

for avoiding Hostilities: The visible and unfeigned Reluctance and Horrour, with which we entered into them: The Caution and Reserve, with which we have carried them on: The Attempts we have made by petitioning the Throne and by every other Method, which might probably, or could possibly be of any Avail for procuring an Accommodation—These are not surely the usual Characteristics of Ambition.

In what Instance have we been the Aggressors? Did our Troops take the Field before the ministerial Forces began their hostile March to *Lexington* and Concord? Did we take Possession, or did we form any Plan for taking Possession of *Canada*, before we knew that it was a Part of the ministerial System to pour the *Canadians* upon our Frontiers? Did we approach the *Canadians*, or have we treated them as Enemies? Did we take the Management of the *Indian* Tribes into our Hands, before we were well assured that the Emissaries of Administration were busy in persuading them to strike us? When we treated with them, did we imitate the barbarous Example? Were not our Views and Persuasions confined to keeping them in a State of Neutrality? Did we seise any Vessel of our Enemies, before our Enemies had seised some of ours? Had we yet seised any, except such as were employed in the Service of Administration, and in supplying those that were in actual Hostilities against us? Cannot our whole Conduct be reconciled to *Principles and Views of Self-Defence?* Whence then the uncandid Imputation of *aiming at an independent Empire?*

Is no regard to be had to the Professions and Protestations made by us, on so many different Occasions, of Attachment to Great Britain of Allegiance to his Majesty; and of Submission to his Government upon the Terms, on which the Constitution points it out as a Duty, and on which alone a *British Sovereign* has a Right to demand it?

When the Hostilities commenced by the ministerial Forces in Massachusetts Bay, and the imminent Dangers threatening the other Colonies rendered it absolutely necessary that they should be put into a State of Defence—even on that Occasion, we did not forget our Duty to his Majesty, and our Regard for our fellow Subjects in Britain. Our Words are these: "But as we most ardently wish for a Restoration of the Harmony formerly subsisting between our Mother-Country and these Colonies, the Interruption of which must at all Events, be exceedingly injurious to both Countries: Resolved, that with a sincere Design of contributing, by all Means in our Power, not incompatible with a just Regard for the undoubted Rights and true

Interests of these Colonies, to the Promotion of this most desirable Reconciliation, an humble and dutiful Address be presented to his Majesty".

If Purposes of establishing an independent Empire has lurked in our Breasts, no fitter Occasion could have been found for giving Intimations of them, than in our Declaration setting forth the Causes and Necessity of our taking up Arms. Yet even there no Pretence can be found for fixing such an Imputation on us. "Lest this Declaration should disquiet the Minds of our Friends and fellow Subjects in any Part of the Empire, we assure them that we mean not to dissolve that Union, which has so long and so happily subsisted between us, and which we sincerely wish to see restored. Necessity has not yet driven us into that desperate Measure, or induced us to excite any other Nation to war against them. We have not raised Armies with the ambitious Designs of separating from Great Britain, and establishing independent States." Our Petition to the King has the following Asseveration: "By such Arrangements as your Majesty's Wisdom can form for collecting the united Sense of your American People, we are convinced your Majesty would receive such satisfactory Proofs of the Disposition of the Colonists towards their Sovereign and the Parent State, that the wished for Opportunity would be soon restored to them, of evincing the Sincerity of their Professions by every Testimony of Devotion becoming the most dutiful Subjects and the most affectionate Colonists." In our Address to the Inhabitants of Great Britain, we say: "We are accused of aiming at Independence: But how is this Accusation supported? By the Allegations of your Ministers, not by our Actions. Give us Leave, most solemnly to assure you, that we have not yet lost Sight of the Object we have ever had in View, a Reconciliation with you on constitutional Principles, and a Restoration of that friendly Intercourse, which to the Advantage of both we till lately maintained."

If we wished to detach you from your Allegiance to his Majesty, and to wean your Affections from a Connexion with your fellow-Subjects in Great Britain, is it likely that we would take so much Pains, upon every proper Occasion, to place those Objects before you in the most agreeable Points of View?

If any equitable Terms of Accommodation had been offered us, and we had rejected them, there would have been some Foundation for the Charge that we endeavoured to establish an independent Empire. But no Means have been used either by Parliament or by Administration

for the Purpose of bringing this Contest to a Conclusion besides Penalties directed by Statutes, or Devastations occasioned by War. Alas! how long will Britons forget that Kindred-Blood flows in your Veins? How long will they strive, with hostile Fury to sluice it out from Bosoms that have already bled in their Cause; and, in their Cause, would still be willing to pour out what remains, to the last precious Drop?

We are far from being insensible of the Advantages, which have resulted to the Colonies as well as to Britain from the Connexion which has hitherto subsisted between them: We are far from denying them, or wishing to lessen the Ideas of their Importance. But the Nature of this Connexion, and the Principles, on which it was originally formed and on which alone it can be maintained, seem unhappily to have been misunderstood or disregarded by those, who laid and conducted the late destructive Plan of Colony-Administration. It is a Connexion founded upon mutual Benefits; upon Religion, Laws, Manners, Customs and Habits common to both Countries. Arbitrary Exertions of Power on the Part of Britain, and servile Submission on the [part of the] Colonies, if the Colonies should ever become degenerate enough to [accept] it, would immediately rend every generous Bond asunder. An intimate Connexion between Freemen and Slaves cannot be continued without Danger and, at last, Destruction to the former. Should your Enemies be able to reduce you to Slavery, the baneful Contagion would spread over the whole Empire. We verily believe that the Freedom, Happiness, and Glory of Great Britain, and the Prosperity of his Majesty and his Family depend upon the Success of your Resistance. You are now expending your Blood, and your Treasure in promoting the Welfare and true Interests of your Sovereign and your fellow-Subjects in Britain, in Opposition to the most dangerous Attacks that have been ever made against them.

The Ideas of deriving Emolument to the Mother Country by taxing you, and depriving you of your Constitutions and Liberties were not introduced till lately. The Experiments, to which those Ideas have given Birth, have proved disastrous: The Voice of Wisdom calls loudly that they should be laid aside. Let them not, however, be removed from View. They may serve as Beacons to prevent future Shipwrecks.

Britain and these Colonies have been Blessings to each other. Sure we are, that they might continue to be so. Some salutary System might certainly be devised, which would remove from both Sides,

Jealousies that are ill-founded, and the Causes of Jealousies that are well-founded; which would restore to both Countries those important Benefits that Nature seems to have intended them reciprocally to confer and to receive; and which would secure the Continuance and the Encrease of those Benefits to numerous succeeding Generations. That such a System may be formed is our ardent Wish.

But as such a System must affect the Interest of the Colonies as much as that of the Mother-Country, why should the Colonies be excluded from a Voice in it? Should not, to say the least upon this Subject, their Consent be asked and obtained as to the *general Ends*, which it ought to be calculated to answer? Why should not its Validity depend upon us as well as upon the Inhabitants of Great Britain? No Disadvantage will result to them: An important Advantage will result to [us]. We shall be affected by no Laws, the Authority of which, as far as they regard us, is not *founded on our own Consent*. This Consent may be expressed as well by a solemn Compact, as if the Colonists, by their Representatives, had an immediate Voice in passing the Laws. In a Compact we would *concede* liberally to Parliament: For the *Bounds* of our Concessions would be known.

We are too much attached to the English Laws and Constitution, and know too well their happy Tendency to diffuse Freedom, Prosperity and Peace wherever they prevail, to desire an independent Empire. If one Part of the Constitution be pulled down, it is impossible to foretell whether the other Parts of it may not be shaken, and, perhaps overthrown. It is a Part of our Constitution to be under Allegiance to the Crown, Limited and ascertained as the Prerogative is, the Position—*that a King can do no wrong*—may be founded in *Fact* as well as in *Law*, if you are not wanting to yourselves.

We trace your Calamities to the House of Commons. *They* have undertaken to *give* and *grant* your Money. From a supposed virtual Representation in *their* House it is argued, that *you* ought to be bound by the Acts of the British Parliament in all Cases whatever. This is no Part of the Constitution. This is the Doctrine, to which we will never subscribe our Assent: This is the Claim, to which we adjure you, as you tender your own Freedom and Happiness, and the Freedom and Happiness of your Posterity, never to submit. The same Principles, which directed *your Ancestors* to oppose the exorbitant and dangerous Pretensions of the Crown, should direct *you* to oppose the no less exorbitant and dangerous Claims of the House of Commons.

Let all Communication of despotic Power through that Channel be cut off, and your Liberties will be safe.

Let neither our Enemies nor our Friends make improper Inferences from the Solicitude, which we have discovered to remove the Imputation of aiming to establish an independent Empire. Though an independent Empire is not our *Wish;* it may—let your Oppressors attend—it may be the Fate of our Countrymen and ourselves. It is in the Power of your Enemies to render Independency or Slavery your and our Alternative. Should we—will you, in such an Event, hesitate a Moment about the Choice? Let those, who drive us to it, answer to their King and to their Country for the Consequences. We are *desirous* to continue Subjects: But we are *determined* to continue Freemen. We shall deem ourselves bound to renounce; and, we hope, you will follow our Example in renouncing the *former* Character whenever it shall become incompatible with the *latter*.

While we shall be continued by you in the very important Trust, which you have committed to us, we shall keep our Eyes constantly and steadily fixed upon the Grand Object of the Union of the Colonies—THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT AND SECURITY OF THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS. Every Measure that we employ shall be directed to the Attainment of this great End: No Measure, necessary, in our Opinion, for attaining it, shall be declined. If any such Measure should, against our principal Intention, draw the Colonies into Engagements that may suspend or dissolve their Union with their fellow-Subjects in Great Britain, we shall lament the Effect; but shall hold ourselves justified in adopting the Measure. That the Colonies may continue connected, as they have been, with Britain, is our second Wish: Our first is—THAT AMERICA MAY BE FREE.[1]

||*Ordered*, To lie on the table.||

Resolved, That Captain Gordon, upon giving his parole, be permitted, while he remains in Town, to visit General Prescot at proper seasons.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

[1] This report, in the writing of James Wilson, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 24, folios 217–232.

"This address was drawn by Mr. Wilson who informed the transcriber that it was meant to lead the public mind into the idea of Independence, of which the necessity was plainly foreseen by Congress: but that before it could be carried through Congress, the language became evidently short of the subsisting maturity for that measure, and the address was in consequence dropped." Note by James Madison to a copy of this paper in his Note Book, No. 1.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1776

Resolved, That two of the brass 6 pounders now at New York, belonging to the United Colonies, be sent to Virginia for the use of the forces there.

Sundry letters were received, and read, viz:

One from General Schuyler 7 February, 1776; one from General Wooster 29 January, 1776; one from General Arnold 24 January, with sundry enclosed papers.[1]

Referred to Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, and Mr. [Samuel] Chase.

A letter from the committee of ~~Amboy~~ Elizabeth Town, February 10, 1776, with sundry papers enclosed.[2] Referred for consideration till to morrow.

The Committee of Claims report, that there is due,

To John Ware, the sum of 13 2/10 dollars for conducting a French gentleman from Harwick township, in Sussex county, to Philadelphia.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

Application being made by some of the master carpenters employed in building the continental frigates, to some members of this house, informing, that about fifty of their journeymen and apprentices had engaged as volunteers to to march with the batallion of associators for New York, and that their zeal for the public service is such, that they cannot be persuaded to desist by any arguments or influence of said builders:

Resolved, That the spirit and zeal of the said journeymen and apprentices is highly approved of by Congress; but, nevertheless, it is the opinion of this Congress, that the public will be more essentially served by the said

[1] Schuyler's letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 153, I, folio 506. A letter of Wooster, dated January 27, is in No. 161, folio 261. Arnold's letter is in No. 162, folio 54.

[2] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 68, folio 81.

associators continuing at their work on the said continental frigates; and that, therefore, all the carpenters, journeymen, and apprentices, employed as aforesaid, be requested to remain in that service, as there is no doubt but other associators will compleat the number wanted.

The Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the report of the committee on the regulations and restrictions under which the ports shall be opened after the first of March next; and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported, that the Committee had taken into consideration the matter referred to them, but not having come to a conclusion, desired leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to Morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into farther consideration, the report of the committee on the regulations and restrictions of trade after the first of March next.

The Committee of Correspondence, who were ordered to confer with the gentleman from Canada, brought in their report, which was read:

The Committee of secret Correspondence report that they have conferred with the Person just arriv'd from Canada, and find that he was furnish'd with a Passport from Gen. Wooster, containing Orders for his Travelling at the Publick Expence; with another Pass from Gen. Schuyler to the same Purpose, and one from the Committee of Kingston, who sent a Guide with him hither. That he has been engag'd in the American Service ever since the Appearance of our Forces in that Country, of which he is a Native; and being as he says well acquainted with the Sentiments and way of Thinking of his Countrymen, his Intention in undertaking this Journey was to give the Congress true Information on that Subject. He says that when the Canadians first heard of the Dispute they were generally on the American side; but that by the Influence of the Clergy and the Noblesse, who have been

continually preaching and persuading them against us, they are now brought into a State of Suspence or Uncertainty which Side to follow. That Papers printed by the Tories at New York have been read to them by the Priests, assuring them that our Design was to deprive them of their Religion as well as their Possessions. That the Letters we have address'd to them have made little Impression, the common People being generally unable to read, and the Priests and Gentry who read them to others, explain them in such a Manner as best answers their own purpose of prejudicing the People against us. That he therefore thinks it would be of great Service if some Persons from the Congress were ~~to appear in~~ sent to Canada, to explain *vivâ voce* to the People there the Nature of our Dispute with England, which they do not well understand, and to satisfy the Gentry and Clergy that we have no Intention against their Interests, but mean to ~~leave~~ put Canada in full Possession of Liberty, desiring only their Friendship and Union with us as good Neighbours and Brethren. That the Clergy and Gentry might, he thinks, by this means be brought over, and would be follow'd by all Canada. And unless some such Measure is taken, he is of Opinion our Affairs there will meet with continual Difficulty and Obstruction.

He left Montreal the 20th past; says our Troops continued to invest Quebec; that he had heard of no Sally made by the Garrison; but was inform'd by an Ecclesiastick who came out of that Town 15 Days before, that the Inhabitants were in great Distress for Fewel, and reduc'd to one Fire for 6 or 7 Families. That Flesh and Flour was also scarce; but they had plenty of Corn, which not having Means to grind they boil'd to subsist on. That on his Route he met several Parties of our Reinforcements marching towards Canada. That Lake Champlain is frozen and passable, but Lake George not yet. He adds that there is great Jealousy in Canada, of our Paper Money.

He offers to carry safely any Despatches the Congress may have to send into that Country.[1]

Resolved, That the consideration of it be referred till to Morrow.

[1] This report, in the writing of Benjamin Franklin, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 22, folio 211. It bears an endorsement, apparently of a later date, "Monsr. Pruxdent la Jeunesse and Dantermond;" and from copies of the passports, in the same volume, folios 213 and 215, the names are derived, viz: Prudent La Jeunesse and John Dantermond.

The committee appointed to consider the best method of subsisting the troops in New York, laid their report on the table.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1776

Resolved, That ||the Secret Committee deliver|| 150 stand of the arms lately imported into this province, be delivered to Colonel Maxwell, for the use of such of the companies of his battalion as want them, in order that they may ||immediately|| proceed to Canada.

The committee to whom the letter from the convention of New Jersey, and from the field officers of the third battallion, ordered to be raised in that colony, were referred, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration; whereupon,

Resolved, That Colonel Heard be directed to furnish Colonel Dayton with such of the arms lately brought from Long Island, as are or may be made fit for service, or so many of them as Colonel Dayton may desire:

That 30,000 dollars be advanced to Mr. Lowry commissary for New Jersey on account; and that he be fully authorized to procure all necessaries (except arms) ordered by Congress, for the three batallions raised, and to be raised, in that colony:

That the convention or committee of safety of New Jersey be allowed from the continental stock, half a ton of powder, out of which they are to pay what has been borrowed from Elizabeth Town, Somerset, Woodbridge, and Brunswick.

That to the same convention or committee of safety, be advanced the further sum of 5,000 dollars, for the purpose of compleating the three batallions there with

arms, which they are desired to accomplish with all possible expedition.

Resolved, That two tons of the powder, belonging to the continent, be delivered to the delegates of Virginia, for the use of the forces in that colony.

A letter from General Lee, dated 11 of February; a letter from General Schuyler, February 4, with a letter from General Wooster dated Montreal January 27, being received by Colonel Ritzema, were read.[1]

Resolved, That they be referred to the same committee to whom the letters received yesterday were referred, and that the said committee be directed to confer with Colonel Ritzema, ||and report to Congress.||

||Information being received that General Clinton was gone from New York, the Congress came to the following resolution:||

The Congress have a proper sense of the spirit and patriotism of the associators of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, in cheerfully offering and preparing to march, in order to assist in the defence of New York; but, as the danger which occasioned an application for their service, is at present over,

Resolved, That their march to New York be suspended.

Resolved, That a pay master be appointed for the troops in Virginia, that his pay be 50 dollars per month.

The Congress then proceeded to the election, when Benjamin Harrison, Jun. of Berkley, was elected.

That a committee of three on the reports of the committee of correspondence (two of whom to be members of Congress) be appointed to proceed to Canada, there to pursue such instructions as shall be given them by Congress:

[1] The letter of Lee is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 158, folio 17. That of Schuyler is in No. 153, I, folio 502. That of Wooster is in No. 161, folio 261.

The members chosen, Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Mr. S[amuel] Chase, and Mr. Charles Carroll, of Carrollton.

Resolved, That Mr. Carroll be requested to prevail on Mr. John Carroll to accompany the committee to Canada, to assist them in such matters as they shall think useful:

Resolved, That this Congress will make provision to defray any expence which may attend this measure.

That 8 tons of powder be immediately sent to Canada, for the use of the forces there.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Richard Smith, the sum of 28 8/10 dollars for provisions furnished by sundry persons in New York government, to Captain Ross's company of riffle men.

To Michael Connolly, the sum of 1,082 8/10 dollars on account of expences in bringing the women and children belonging to the 26 and 7th Regiments from Esopus to Reading.

To Colonel Simmes, the sum of 569 dollars on account of expences in bringing the baggage of the 26 and 7th regiments from Walpack to Lancaster, and several other small expences.

To Thomas M'Enry, the sum of 133 1/3 dollars for 800 Canteen straps.

Ordered, That the above be paid.

The committee, to whom the letter from the committee of safety of New York of 3 January, and the letter from Governor Trumbull of January 6, were referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration:

Resolved, That no farther works be erected on Martler's rock, but, that those already erected there, be supported and garrisoned:

That a fascine battery, to mount not exceeding eighteen heavy cannon, be thrown up on the Gravel Hill, eastward of Martler's rock, marked in the draught LL, so as to

command the west point, the reach down the river from the west point, and part of the reach up the river: and that a convenient road be opened from this battery to the barracks on Martler's rock:

That a redoubt of earth and fascines be built on the eminence on the east side of the river, opposite to the west point marked in the draught A, to mount 30 guns:

That it be recommended to the convention or committee of safety of New York, to forward the battery at Pooplopen's kill; and that the said battery be made of earth and fascines, and to mount a number of guns, not exceeding forty guns:

That such of the continental troops as are or may be stationed at the aforesaid places, be employed in erecting these works and batteries, under the direction of the engineer:

That it be recommended to the convention or committee of safety of New York, to prosecute the discovery of the lead mine at New Canaan: and that a copy of the report of Joseph Hopkins to the general Assembly of Connecticut respecting this mine, be sent to them.[1]

The Congress took into consideration the report from the committee of the whole house, and after debate,

Resolved, That the same be re-committed.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to morrow Morning, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the propriety of opening the ports, and the restrictions and regulations of the trade of these colonies after the first of March next.

Resolved, That the committee of ways and means to procure Cannon, be empowered to enquire what quantity of brass can be procured, and to contract for the same.

Adjourned to 9 o'Clock to Morrow.

[1] The report of Hopkins is printed in Force, *American Archives*, 4th Series, V, 298.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1776

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to furnish Colonel St. Clair's battalion with arms, and that the president write to Colonel St. Clair, and desire him to use his utmost diligence in getting his batallion ready, and to march the companies, one at a time, as fast as they can be got ready, to Canada, with all possible expedition.

The Committee appointed to make an estimate of the cannon wanted for the defence of the colonies, and to devise ways and means for procuring them, &c. brought in their report, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the propriety of opening the ports, and the restrictions and regulations of the trade of the colonies after the first of March; and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported, that the committee had taken into consideration the matter to them referred, but not having come to any conclusion, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to Morrow Morning, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the propriety of opening the ports, and the restrictions and regulations of trade after the first of March next.

The committee on General Washington's and General Schuyler's letters, laid their report on the table.

By the Committee appointed to consider and report their opinions of several letters from Gen[ls] Washington and Schuyler, and papers by them enclosed

Your Committee in obediance to the order of Congress, have taken the said papers and letters into their consideration and beg leave to report:

That it is the opinion of your committee that commissioners be appointed by congress to repair to Cambridge to state and settle the accounts of the army, and report their proceedings to Congress.

~~That reasonable wages and proper rations be allowed to all persons employed by the Commissary Gen^l^ and Quarter master Gen^l^ and that the said commissioners report to Congress what in their opinion would be proper to allow to each person.~~

That Aids de Camp to the Commander in Chief, rank as Majors, and that Aids de Camp to the Major Gen^ls^ rank as Captains.

~~That the committee of Fred^k^ County Maryland be informed that instructions to Doct: Connolly were artfully concealed in the two pieces of wood which are in the mail pilion of his port manteau saddle, and be requested carefully to examine, and if found, to transmit them immediately to Congress.~~

That no postage be paid ~~for~~ on officers letters, they engaging on honor to frank or enclose no letters but their own.

That Congress submit the expediancy and practicability of an Expedition to Nova Scotia, to Gen^l^ Washington, and would by no means accept the plan proposed by Thompson and Obrian so far as relates to Tory Property nor the destruction of the Town of Halifax.—That the Congress approve of Gen^l^ Schuyler's answer to Col^o^ Fellows, that Gen^l^ Schuyler be desired to procure all necessary intrenching tools, that 10,000 in specie be immediately sent to Canada, and that bills of credit to the amount of 20,000 pounds of small denominations from 1/ to 7/6 be issued and sent to that Province.

That two additional Commissioners be appointed for Indian Affairs in the Northern department.

~~That Gen^l^ Washington be requested to send some skilful Engineer to the assistance of Gen^l^ Schuyler in constructing a Fort at Ticonderoga, if Gen^l^ Washington can part with any such person, and that if he cannot, he acquaint Gen^l^ Schuyler therewith, and desire he will use his endeavours to procure one.~~[1]

Adjourned to 9 o'Clock to Morrow.

[1] This report, in the writing of Samuel Chase, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, VI, folio 189.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1776

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of James Mease, the commissary, for the sum of 10,000 dollars for the use of the Pensylvania batallions, he to account.

That Colonel [James] Irvine, of the sixth Pensylvania batallion, be authorized and empowered to purchase good arms for the use of his batallion, the price of the same to be deducted out of the pay of the men.

The committee on the state of the treasury, brought in their report, which was read:

Resolved, That a standing committee of 5 be appointed for superintending the treasury:

That it shall be the business of this committee,

To examine the accounts of the treasurers, and, from time to time, to report to Congress the state of the treasury;

To consider of ways and means for supplying gold and silver for the support of the army in Canada:

To employ and instruct proper persons for liquidating the public accounts, with the different pay masters and commissaries in the continental service, and the conventions, committees of safety and others who have been or shall be entrusted with the public money; and, from time to time, to report the state of such accounts to Congress:

To superintend the emissions of bills of Credit:

To obtain from the different Assemblies and Conventions of the United Colonies, accounts of the number of ~~people of all sorts~~ inhabitants in each colony, according to the resolution of Congress on that subject.

The members chosen, Mr. [James] Duane, Mr.

[Thomas] Nelson, Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, Mr. [Richard] Smith, and Mr. [Thomas] Willing.

The Congress taking into consideration the report of the committee on the treasury;

Resolved, That a farther sum of four millions of dollars be emitted on the same security as the sums of money heretofore emitted by Congress have been:

That the committee for superintending the treasury be directed to consider the numbers and denominations of the bills in which it will be proper to emit the above 4 millions, and report to Congress.

The committee appointed to consider into what departments the middle and southern colonies ought to be divided, brought in their report, which was read.

The committee to whom sundry letters from Brigadier General Arnold, Brigadier General Wooster, Major General Schuyler, and Major General Lee, were referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration; On motion made,

Resolved, That Major General Lee be directed immediately to repair to Canada, and take the command of the army of the United Colonies in that province:

That Major General Schuyler be directed to repair, as soon as his health will permit, to New York, and take the command of the forces, and conduct the military operations there: and that the president inform him by express of this arrangement, and the reasons that led to it:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention or committee of safety of New York, to supply General Lee with a quantity of suitable cannon, not exceeding twelve, and one or more mortars, if to be had, with balls, shells, and other necessaries for the siege or assault of Quebec; and that they assist him in forwarding the same with all possible expedition:

That the regiment of Canadians, the raising of which is mentioned in Brigadier General Arnold's letter, of the 12 of January last, to have been put on foot by him, receive the same pay, and be subject to the same regulations as the other forces employed in Canada, and be accounted part of the number designed to be raised for that service.

That the appointment of Captain ——— Rensselaer to be deputy muster master general of the forces in Canada, be confirmed:

That the appointment of John Halstead, Esq^{r} to be commissary for the army before Quebec, be confirmed:

That Major General Schuyler be directed to have provisions stored in proper places near Hudson's river, between Albany and the Highlands, to supply such troops as it may be necessary to call out of the country:

That the offer made by Major General Schuyler to pay at the rate of four shillings per day for each of the sleds hired to forward the Pensylvania and New Jersey forces in their march to Canada, be complied with:

That the officers in the continental Armies be enjoined to use their utmost diligence in preventing every kind of plunder; and that all who shall offend herein, be punished according to the strictest discipline:

That the Resolves of Congress for encouraging suttlers to attend the army in Canada, be published, with the information that hosiery, shoes, coarse linens, soap, rum, sugar, and wine, are much wanted there:

That a few artificers, such as armourers, smiths, carpenters, harness makers, and wheel wrights, with proper persons to superintend them, be forthwith sent to Canada.

That it be recommended to the convention of New York, that such of the officers who served faithfully in Canada the last campaign, as are willing to continue

there, be preferred, in the new levies of the colony of New York, to others.

Resolved, That a committee of three be chosen to prepare instructions for the committee appointed to go to Canada.

The members elected, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. [George] Wythe, and Mr. [Roger] Sherman.

Resolved, That this Congress will, on Tuesday next, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the propriety of opening the ports, and the restrictions and regulations of trade, after the first of March next.[1]

Resolved, That the committee appointed to purchase sundry articles of cloathing for the northern army, be directed to contract for good strong shoes for the Army in Canada.

The Congress taking into consideration the report of the committee on the method of subsisting the troops in New York, &c., ~~thereupon came to the following resolutions:~~

Resolved, That the sum of 35,000 dollars be advanced to the convention or committee of safety of New York, for the support of the troops employed in the defence of that colony; the said convention or committee of safety

[1] "This measure of opening the ports, &c. labored exceedingly, because it was considered as a bold step to independence. Indeed, I urged it expressly with that view, and as connected with the institution of government in all the States, and a declaration of national independence. The party against me had art and influence as yet, to evade, retard, and delay every motion that we made. Many motions were made, and argued at great length, and with great spirit on both sides, which are not to be found in the Journals. When motions were made and debates ensued in a committee of the Whole House, no record of them was made by the secretary, unless the motion prevailed and was reported to Congress, and there adopted. This arrangement was convenient for the party in opposition to us, who by this means evaded the appearance, on the Journals, of any subject they disliked." John Adams's Autobiography, in *Writings*, III, 29. See also his notes of Debates printed at the end of this year's Journal, *post*.

to be accountable for the expenditure thereof; and that an order be drawn on the treasurers for the above sum, in favour of the delegates of that colony, who are directed to forward the same:

That it be recommended to the convention or committee of safety of New York, to contract with proper persons for supplying the said troops with the rations allowed by Congress, and with fuel and other necessaries, on the most reasonable terms in their power.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

On an account exhibited by the committee of Frederick county, Maryland, to be paid to S. Chase and W. Paca, Esq[rs] the sum of 860 9/10 dollars, of which 268 4/10 dollars being for riffles, &c. furnished Captain M. Cressop's company of rifflemen, ought to be charged to the said company, the remainder to the continent:

To Nicholas Hower, for waggonage, the sum of 74 4/10 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Daniel Hower.[1]

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Monday.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1776

Met according to adjournment, and having attended the oration delivered in honour of General Montgomery, and of those officers and soldiers who magnanimously fought and fell with him in maintaining the principles of liberty,[2]

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

[1] In the back of "Secret Journal, No. 8" is a list of warrants issued by Charles Thomson. This name is there given as Flower.

[2] See Bibliographical notes in this volume, *post*.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1776

The convention of New Jersey having made a new choice of delegates to represent that colony in Congress, three of said delegates attending, produced their credentials, which were read as follows:

IN PROVINCIAL CONGRESS, NEW JERSEY, BRUNSWICK, *14th Feb^{y} 1776:*

On motion, *Resolved*, unanimously, That William Livingston, John D'Hart, Richard Smith, John Cooper, and Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant, Esqrs. be Delegates to represent this Province in the Continental Congress, for the Space of one Year, or until others shall be legally appointed in their Stead; and that they, or any three or more of them, have full and ample Power to consent and agree to all Measures which such Congress shall deem necessary; and this Province bind themselves to execute, to the utmost of their Power, all Resolutions which the said Congress may adopt. And further, if the said Congress shall think necessary to adjourn, we do authorize our said Delegates to represent and act for this Province, in any one Congress to be held by Virtue of such adjournments, during their Delegation.

A true Copy from the Minutes,

WILLIAM PATERSON, *Secretary.*[1]

A Letter from General Lee, dated 17 February, 1776, was read.[2]

A memorial from a number of the inhabitants of Northumberland, in the colony of Pensylvania, dated 17 January, 1776, with enclosures, was presented to Congress and read: Also,

A petition ~~and remonstrances~~ from sundry inhabitants near Pittsburg, was presented and read:

Resolved, That the above memorial and petition be referred to a committee of five.

The members, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, Mr. W[illiam]

[1] The original is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, New Jersey, *Credentials of Delegates.*

[2] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 158, folio 21.

Livingston, Mr. [William] Paca, Mr. E[dward] Rutledge, and Mr. [Samuel] Chase.

Lieutenant Brasher, who had the orders of General Schuyler to conduct a number of Canadian prisoners to New Jersey or Pensylvania, having executed his orders, laid his instructions before Congress, which were read. Also, quarter master Shallus, ||of the first Pennsylvania battalion,|| having had orders to conduct certain prisoners down from Kingston, having executed his orders, laid his instructions before Congress, which were read.

Resolved, That the above be referred to the committee on the prisoners.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to deliver to Colonel Maxwell, or order, twenty stands of arms for the use of his batallion, he to be accountable for the same.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the Committee on the ways and means of procuring cannon:

Resolved, That two hundred and fifty twelve pounders, sixty nine pounders, and sixty-two four pounders, be purchased for the use of these colonies:

That the Committee appointed on the ways and means of procuring cannon, be empowered to purchase or contract for making the same:

That a new member be chosen and added to that committee:

The member chosen, Mr. William Livingston.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Michael Connolly, expences for waggon hire, carrying the prisoners' baggage from Bethlehem to Reading, and his own expences four days, the sum of 160 dollars.

To Richard Howell, the sum of 34½ dollars for transportation of powder to Burlington.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

Resolved, That Colonel Wayne be directed to march with his batallion to New York, and put himself under the command of General Lee, or the commanding officer there.

The Congress being informed that the two prisoners taken at Chamblee, and who had leave to stay at Newark in the province of New Jersey, on condition of their making gun locks, for the use of the United Colonies, are not employed in that work:

Resolved, That the said two prisoners be ordered to Philadelphia, and put under the direction of Mr. Rittenhouse, to carry on the above business.

The Congress being informed that a quantity of powder, belonging to the United Colonies, was arrived at Brunswick, in New Jersey,

Resolved, That Mr. [Francis] Lewis, Mr. [John] Alsop, and Mr. P[hilip] Livingston, be directed to forward the said powder, under a guard, with all possible expedition, to General Washington, for the use of the army under his command.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of Mons[r] la Jeunesse, for the sum of 250 dollars, for his services in behalf of the United Colonies.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1776

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To [Jacob] Shallus, the sum of 17 $^{3}/_{4}$ dollars for his expences in conducting prisoners from Albany to Trenton.

To Caspar Shaaff, for waggonage, the sum of 104 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid into the hands of S[amuel] Chase, and William Paca, Esqrs.

||*Ordered*, That the said accounts be paid.||

Sundry letters from General Schuyler, dated Albany February 10 and 13, being received, were read:[1]

Resolved, That the above be referred to a committee of three:

The members chosen, Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, and Mr. S[amuel] Adams.

A letter from the committee of safety for Pensylvania, dated 20 ||instant,|| respecting the prisoners at Lancaster, was read:[2]

Resolved, That the same be referred to the Committee on prisoners.

The Committee on the treasury, to whom it was referred to consider the numbers and denominations of the bills in which the four millions of dollars, directed by Congress to be issued, ought to be emitted, brought in a report, which was considered, and agreed to, as follows:

That the four millions of dollars now to be emitted, consist of the following denominations, viz.

600,000 of $^1/_6$ of a dollar,	100,000	130,436 of 3 dollars,	391,308
600,000 of $^1/_3$ do.	200,000	130,435 of 4 do.	521,740
600,000 of $^1/_2$ do.	300,000	65,217 of 5 do.	326,085
600,000 of $^2/_3$ do.	400,000	65,217 of 6 do.	391,302
130,436 of 1 dollar,	130,436	65,217 of 7 do.	456,519
130,437 of 2 do.	260,874	65,217 of 8 do.	521,736

That the plates engraved for the two former emissions, may be used in the new emission of the bills from one to eight dollars inclusive, and that those bills be expressed in the following words:

[No.] Dollars.

This bill entitles the bearer to receive Spanish milled dollars, or the value thereof in gold or silver, according to a resolution of Congress, passed at Philadelphia, February 17, 1776.

[1] The letters of Schuyler are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 153, I, folios 512, 532.

[2] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 69, I, folio 95.

On the back is the record of votes for the membership of a committee: Col. Morris, 1; Wythe, 6; Harrison, 5; S. Adams, 5; Smith, 4; Wilson, 5; John Adams, 1; Paine, 3. A second ballot gave Col. Morris, 1; Harrison, 7; S. Adams, 4; Wilson, 4.

That the said bills be signed by two signers, and each different denomination numbered from Number 1. progressively.

That one plate with proper devices be engraved for the smaller bills now to be emitted, under the value of one dollar:

That the form of the bills be as follows:

One of a dollar, according to a resolution of Congress, passed at Philadelphia, February 17, 1776.

That each of the bills be signed by one signer only, and that each different denomination be numbered from Number 1 progressively as aforesaid:

That Michael Hillegas, Richard Bache, and Stephen Paschall, Esqr.s be appointed and authorized to inspect the press:

That before they enter upon their office, they shall respectively take an oath or affirmation, to be administered to them by any magistrate, "well and faithfully to execute the trust reposed in them by a resolution of Congress, as inspectors of the press, according to the best of their skill and judgment." A certificate of which oath, or affirmation, shall be delivered to the committee on the treasury:

That each of the said inspectors respectively, shall be allowed two dollars a day for their services, while they shall be employed in inspecting the press, in execution of the said trust.

Resolved, That the committee on the treasury, be directed to have the foregoing resolutions carried into execution with all convenient despatch.

The committee for receiving the applications for offices in the continental army, reported, that they have nominated Mr. Lewis [F.] Dunham, for surgeon to the third batallion, now raising in the colony of New Jersey, and

recommended him to the Congress for their appointment to the said office.

Resolved, That the report be agreed to, and that a commission be granted to Mr. Lewis Dunham accordingly.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1776

Two letters from General Washington, of the 9th of February, being received were read,[1]

Resolved, That the said letters be referred to a committee of the whole.

Agreeable to the above resolve, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take the above letters into consideration, and after some time the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported, that the committee had taken into consideration the matter referred to them, but not having come to a conclusion, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the letters of General Washington.

A delegate from New Jersey, having informed Congress that the regiment of militia, ordered by the convention of that colony to march to the defence of New York, in consequence of the resolve of Congress of the 12th of this month, were not sufficiently armed, and that they could not be furnished with arms, unless the Congress supplied them ||out of the public stock||; and as the Congress have not arms to spare, those they have, being necessary for arming the batallions raising in the continental service, therefore

[1] These letters are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folios 465 and 477. They are printed in *Writings of Washington*, (Ford), III, 403, 406.

Resolved, That the march of the said batallion of militia be countermanded.

Resolved, That orders issue to quicken Colonel Wayne in getting his batallion ready; and that, as fast as he can get a company properly equipped, he cause it ||immediately|| to march to New York.

Resolved, That the president be directed to write to the convention of New York, and desire they would inform Congress, what proficiency they have made in raising the four batallions recommended to be raised in that colony for the defence of the same.[1]

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1776

Colonel [Carter] Braxton, a delegate from Virginia, attending, produced the credentials of his appointment, which were read, as follows:

VIRGINIA, IN CONVENTION, *December 15th, 1775.*

The Convention, according to the order of the Day, proceeded to the appointment of a Delegate to represent this Colony in General Congress, in the room of the late honorable Peyton Randolph, Esqr and the Members having prepared Tickets with the name of the Delegate to be appointed, and put the same into the Ballot box, Mr. Thomas Ludwell Lee, Mr. Carrington, Mr. Digges, Mr. William Cabell, and Mr. Carter, of Lancaster, were appointed a Committee to examine the Ballot box, and report on whom the Majority fell; and, it appearing, from their report, that there was a Majority of the whole Convention in favour of Carter Braxton, Esqr

[1] "As New York was thought to be in a critical state, and no recommendation had appeared from our Committee of Safety or the officers of the four battalions, it occasioned much surprise and uneasiness, and the only apology I was able to make, viz., the expectation of a meeting of the Convention, and the utility of their advice, (which, indeed, depended on my own conjecture,) did not prove satisfactory. It was said that, while everything was done for New York at the publick expense that could be wished or asked, they neglected their own defence, &c. This produced a resolution that an inquiry should be made into your progress with respect to those battalions." *James Duane to the Convention of New York*, 25 February, 1776.

Resolved, therefore, That the said Carter Braxton, Esq^r^ be appointed a Delegate to represent this Colony in the room of the late honorable Peyton Randolph, Esq^r^

A Copy, JOHN TAZEWELL, *Clerk of the Convention.*[1]

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to return to the committee of safety of Pensylvania, the arms borrowed of them for the use of the continent.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Francis Dayman, for translating into French the rules and articles for the better regulating of the continental troops, the sum of (£5 Pensylvania currency) 13 1/3 dollars:

To Mons^r^ Mesplet, for printing the military rules, and French letters to Quebec ||the inhabitants of Canada|| the sum of £16 10=44 dollars:

To Colonel Harrison, for expences of himself, Mr. Lynch, and Mr. Allen, on their journey to New York, the sum of 150 9/10 dollars:

To Jeremiah Traxler, for provisions, &c. for Indians who were in Philadelphia in December last, the sum of £15 6=40 8/10 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Mr. Kachlein:

To sundry persons for riffles furnished Captain Morgan's company, the sum of £35 10 Virginia currency=118 3/10 dollars, which ought to be paid to Colonel Nelson, and charged to the said company.

To Clement Biddle, for shot pouches, powder horns, and bullet moulds, purchased by him for the Canada regiment, the sum of £438 10=1,169 3/10 dollars:

To sundry persons for blankets supplyed to Captain Price's company, the sum of £12 7=32 9/10 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to George Read, Esq^r^

[1] The original is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, Virginia, *Credentials of Delegates.*

To Captain Little, for Provisions for guards attending Captain Campbell, the sum of £3 11 9[=9.5 dollars]:

To Christian Rhorbeck, for necessaries furnished to several prisoners of the 7th and 26th regiments, the sum of £3 10 6=9 4/10 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Adam Kimmel:

To Henry Shits, for riffles, &c. furnished to Captain Stevenson's company, the sum of £29 9 6=78 6/10 dollars, to be charged to the said company:

To Abraham E. Brasher, for attending several French Noblesse, from Albany to Bristol, the sum of 32 dollars.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to contract for the making of muskets and bayonets for the use of the United Colonies, and to consider of further ways and means of promoting and encouraging the manufacture of fire arms in all parts of the United Colonies.

The members chosen, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, Mr. [James] Wilson, Mr. [Samuel] Huntington, Mr. [[1]] Lee, and Mr. L[ewis] Morris.[2]

Resolved, That the letter of Christopher Leffingwell, dated 29 November, 1775, with sundry papers relating to the cargo of the Brig *Nancy*, be referred to a committee of three.[3]

The members chosen, Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. [Samuel] Huntington, and Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be empowered for the purpose of procuring arms and ammunition, to export produce of these colonies, equal to the amount of that by them exported in two vessels lately taken by the enemy.

[1] Probably Richard Henry Lee.

[2] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* 4 March, 1776, with a notice from the committee.

[3] See *Journals*, II, 424.

Resolved, That the committee, for superintending the treasury, be authorized to employ one or more clerks for stating, keeping, and liquidating the public accounts, under their direction, and to provide books and a suitable office for that purpose:

That they have power to call upon the different committees of Congress, assemblies, conventions, councils or committees of safety, continental officers, and private persons, who have been or shall be entrusted with public money, for their accounts and vouchers, and for such other materials and information, as the said committee on the treasury shall judge to be useful, in stating, checking and auditing the public accounts.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several assemblies, conventions, councils, or committees of safety, and committees of correspondence and inspection in the United Colonies, to exert themselves, in devising further ways and means of promoting and encouraging the manufacture of salt petre, and of introducing that manufacture into private families.

That it be recommended to the several assemblies and conventions in the United Colonies, that they immediately establish public works in each and every county, in their respective colonies, at the expence of such colonies, for the manufacture of salt petre, and appoint committees of their own members immediately to set up such manufactures:

That it be recommended to the assemblies, conventions, or councils, or committees of safety, of every colony, forthwith to erect powder mills in their respective colonies, and appoint committees to build such mills, and procure persons well skilled in the manufacture of powder, at the expence of such colonies:

That a committee of this Congress, to consist of one member from each colony, be appointed to consider of further ways and means of promoting and encouraging the manufactures of salt petre, sulphur and [gun] powder in these colonies, and to correspond with the several assemblies and conventions, and councils or committees of safety in the several colonies, that this Congress may be, from time to time, truly informed of the progress made in these manufactures in all the colonies.

The members chosen, Mr. [Josiah] Bartlett, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, Mr. [Stephen] Hopkins, Mr. [Samuel] Huntington, Mr. L[ewis] Morris, Mr. [Jonathan Dickinson] Sergeant, Mr. [Charles] Humphreys, Mr. [George] Read, Mr. [William] Paca, Mr. [Carter] Braxton, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, Mr. E[dward] Rutledge, and Mr. [Archibald] Bullock.[1]

Ordered, That the above resolutions respecting salt petre, &c. be published.

It being represented that Capt. Harman[2] has inlisted into his company, and carried with him to Canada, thirteen servants, without the consent ~~and contrary to the desires~~ of their masters.

Resolved, That a committee of 3 be appointed to enquire into this matter, and report to Congress.

The members, Mr. [James] Wilson, Mr. [Thomas] Willing, and Mr. [George] Wythe.

Resolved, That this Congress will, on Monday next, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the letters from General Washington, &c.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Monday.

[1] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 28 February, 1776.

[2] Captain Josiah Harmar?

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1776

A letter from General Lee, ||dated|| 22 February, 1776, with 2 enclosures.[1]

Resolved, That the same be referred to a committee of three.

||The members chosen,|| Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, and Mr. L[ewis] Morris.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of Carpenter Wharton, for the sum of 6,000 dollars, he to be accountable.

A petition from lieutenant Jocelyn Feltham, of the 26 ||regiment||, who was taken prisoner at Ticonderoga, ||was presented and read,|| praying leave to go to Europe for the recovery of his health.

Resolved, That the prayer of his petition be granted.

A representation from the committee of inspection ||and observation|| of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, relative to vessels loading with produce for Great Britain, Ireland, and the British West Indies, was presented to Congress, and read: Whereupon,

Resolved, That no vessel loaded for Great Britain, Ireland, or the British West Indies, be permitted to sail until the further order of Congress; and that it be recommended to the different committees of inspection and observation, to see that this resolution be carried into execution.

Ordered, That the above resolve be published.[2]

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to examine and report the number and circumstances of the permits, and the destination of the vessels, to which such permits have been granted, for exporting the produce of

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 158, folio 25.

[2] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 28 February, 1776.

the colonies, in consequence of the importation of ammunition and warlike stores; and that the representation of the committee of inspection and observation for the city and liberties of Philadelphia, on this subject, be referred to the said committee.

The members chosen, Mr. [James] Duane, Mr. [Samuel] Chase, Mr. [James] Wilson, Mr. [William] Livingston, and Mr. [George] Wythe.

Resolved, Mons^{r} Mesplet, Printer, be engaged to go to Canada, and there set up his press and carry on the printing business, and the Congress engage to defray the expence of transporting him, his family and printing utensils to Canada, and will moreover pay him the sum of 200 dollars.[1]

A letter from the convention of New Jersey, dated February 24th, 1776, was read:[2]

Resolved, That the same be referred to the committee to whom the letter from General Lee, was ||this morning|| committed.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of the delegates of Maryland, for the sum of 22,000 dollars, to be by them changed into gold and silver, and by them paid back into the treasury.

The order of the day being renewed, adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1776

Resolved, That Monsieur Reganville be permitted to go to Bristol, and spend a week with his relations there; and that, after that, he return to this city.

[1] In the Warrant book is a record of a payment of 200 dollars to the printer Mesplet for removing to Canada.

[2] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 68, folio 99.

Resolved, That the sum of 100 dollars be paid to Monsr. Dugan,[1] for his services in the Cause of the United Colonies in Canada, and that it be recommended to the commanding officer of the forces of the United Colonies in that province, to advance him to a post in the army, suitable to his merit and services.

The committee, to whom the letters from Christopher Leffingwell and others, concerning the brig *Nancy*, commanded by Thomas Davis, and her cargo, were referred, brought in their report; which being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That the case of the said brigantine and cargo, pertaineth to the judicature established in the colony of Connecticut for hearing and determining matters of the same kind.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee appointed to consider into what departments the middle and southern colonies ought to be formed, &c., Whereupon,

Resolved, That New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, the lower counties on Delaware, and Maryland, be put into one department, under the command of one Major General, and two Brigadiers General with proper staff:

That Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, be put into one other department, under the command of one Major General, and three Brigadiers General with proper staff:

Resolved, That Friday next be assigned for the election of the Majors General, Brigadiers General, and staff officers in the foregoing departments.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention of New Jersey, to have the cargo of the transport *Blue*

[1] In the Warrant Book this name is Dugar.

Mountain Valley landed, and secured in some safe place, till further orders of Congress.

The order of the day being renewed,[1]

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1776

Resolved, That a letter be sent to General Lee desiring him not to set out for Canada, till he receive further orders from Congress.

The committee, to whom the letters from General Lee and the convention of New Jersey, were referred, brought in their Report, which was read:

Ordered, That the same be referred till to Morrow.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to return to the delegates of North Carolina the four hundred pounds of powder borrowed of that colony.

The Committee on Prisoners, to whom the letter from the committee of safety for Pensylvania was referred, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration; and thereupon,

Resolved, That the committee of inspection and observation for the county of Berks, in Pensylvania, be requested and authorized to contract, upon reasonable terms, for the subsistence of such of the prisoners now in Reading as are not supplied by Mr. Franks, together with the women and children belonging to all the prisoners there, and for supplying them with fire wood, and other things absolutely necessary for their support:

[1] "I make no doubt you have heard Mr. Chase is ordered to Canada. He sets off in a few days. Mr. Rogers has leave of absence; should he leave Congress, Maryland will be without representation. I mention this to show the necessity of your requesting Messrs. Johnson and Stone to attend. I wrote Mr. Tilghman, but have not any answer." *Robert Alexander to Maryland Council of Safety*, 27 February, 1776.

That the committees of inspection and observation for the counties, districts, or towns, assigned for the residence of prisoners, be empowered to superintend their conduct, and, in cases of gross misbehaviour, to confine them, and report to the Congress the proceedings had on such occasions.

Ordered, That the foregoing resolve be published.

Resolved, That the committee of safety for Pensylvania, agreeably to the offer made by them of their service, of which the Congress have a proper sense, be authorized to distribute the officers, prisoners in Lancaster, in such places within the province of Pensylvania, as to that committee shall seem most proper, taking their parole, which, if they refuse to give, the said committee are empowered and directed to confine them; And that, in executing this resolve, the said committee have a regard to the resolutions heretofore made by the Congress, with respect to prisoners and their residence.

A petition of Anthony Marmajou, master and owner of the brig *Little Polly*, of the island of Martinique, was presented to Congress and read:

Resolved, That Monsieur Anthony Marmajou be permitted to load the Brigantine *Little Polly*, (in which he imported a small quantity of powder and arms,) with the produce of these colonies, (horned cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry and lumber for making casks excepted,) and export the same to Martinique; And that the said Anthony Marmajou do take every possible precaution to avoid all British men of war and cutters on this voyage; and that he use his utmost endeavours to import into these colonies the powder and arms mentioned in his petition,

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favor of Mr. J. Mease, for the sum of 20,000 dollars, he to be accountable.

The committee, to whom the letters from General Schuyler, dated 10th and 13th of this instant, February, and the papers therein mentioned, were referred, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration: and thereupon,

Resolved, That a sufficient quantity of steel be sent to Major General Schuyler, or the commanding officer at Albany, for the Armourers and the blacksmith who is appointed to go and work for the Indians, and that the delegates of New Jersey be desired to provide and forward the same:

That an Account of the Money paid to the Pensylvania troops who have marched to Canada, be sent to Major General Schuyler:

That the deputy muster master general, Gunning Bedford, Esq^{r} be directed to repair forthwith to his post in the northern army in Canada, and that he muster the troops once in every month, and make returns to Congress and the commanding Officer:

That the orders given by Major General Schuyler, in his letter of the 12 day of this instant, to Lieutenant Colonel Warner, be approved.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1776

The colony of New Hampshire having appointed delegates for the present year, William Whipple, Esq^{r} one of said delegates, attended and produced the credentials of their appointment, which were read as follows:

COLONY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE—

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *January 23d, 1776.*

Voted, That Josiah Bartlett, John Langdon, and William Whipple, Esq^{rs} be, and hereby are appointed Delegates to Represent this Colony

in the Continental Congress at Philadelphia for the Term of one Year from this Time, Any one of them, in the Absence of the Others, to have full Power to represent this Colony, and that not more than Two of Them attend at one time. Sent up for concurrence.

P. WHITE, *Speaker.*
IN COUNCIL, *eodem Die.*
Read and concurred. E. THOMPSON, *Secy.*
A true Copy from the journal of Council.
Attest, E. THOMPSON, *Secy.*[1]

A letter from General Washington, dated 14 February, enclosing a letter from Lord Drummond to General Robertson, a return of the army 4th of same month, &c., was read.[2]

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the letter from General Washington, [of the 9th instant,] and the trade of the colonies after the 1st of March, and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported that the committee had taken into consideration the matters referred to them, but not having come to a conclusion, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their further consideration the letter from General Washington, and the state of the trade of the colonies.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

[1]The original is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, New Hampshire, *Credentials of Delegates.*

[2]The letter of Washington, with the enclosure, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folios 485 and 489. It is printed in *Writings of Washington* (Ford) III, 419.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1776

A letter from the committee of safety of New Hampshire, with a petition from said colony, and sundry other papers, were read:[1]

Resolved, That the same be referred to a committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. [Carter] Braxton, and Mr. [Benjamin] Franklin.

A Petition from the inhabitants of Falmouth being presented, was read.

Resolved, That it be referred to a committee of three.

The members, Mr. W[illiam] Livingston, Mr. [George] Read and Mr. [William] Paca.

The Committee appointed to consider the Petition of "the Committee appointed by those who suffered by the late inhuman burning of the Town of Falmouth," beg Leave to report

That the late Inhabitants of the said Town, by their spirited and patriotic Refusal to comply with the Terms insisted upon by Henry Mowat Commander of his Majesty's Ship *Canceau* to destroy the said Town unless they would deliver up their Arms and Ammunition and send him four hostages in performance thereof, (in consequence of which Refusal most of their houses and other Buildings were by him entirely destroyed, and part of their Effects together with every Vessel in the harbour except two which were carried off by the Enemy) are reduced to great Distress, and entitled to the Charitable Relief of their Brethren of America engaged in the same common Cause.

Your Committee is of opinion that their Distress may be alleviated either by the Congress recommending to the several Conventions and Committees a Subscription for their Relief, or by ordering a competent sum for that purpose out of the continental Treasury, but conceiving the first to be an unequal Tax upon the more generous and humane, and too slow in its Execution for the immediate Redress of the Sufferers; and the latter productive of a dangerous Precedent, Do therefore submit it to Congress to adopt such mode of Relief as shall appear to them attended with the least Inconvenience.[2]

[1] William Whipple reached Philadelphia on the 28th February, bringing these papers.

[2] The original report, in the writing of William Livingston, is in the Papers of the Continental Congress, No. 20, I, folio 43. It is without date, and does not appear to have been acted upon.

A letter from James Mease, commissary, with sundry queries, relative to his conduct as commissary, on which he requests the directions of Congress, was read:[1]

Resolved, That it be referred to a committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. [Edward] Rutledge, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, and Mr. [Joseph] Hewes.

A Memorial of the merchants, traders and others, of the city of Philadelphia, was presented and read:

Resolved, That the same be referred to a committee of the whole.

The general Assembly of Massachusetts, having transmitted to Congress a state of the accounts of the said colony against the continent,

Resolved, That the same be referred for liquidation to the Committee of Claims.

Resolved, That an addition of 34 dollars per month be added to the pay of Joseph Reed, Esq[r] the secretary to General Washington, on account of the extraordinary services at present attending that office, by reason of the General's direction of the naval department.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the letter from General Washington, of the 14th instant, with Lord Drummond's letter.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be empowered to treat with the owners of some medicines lately imported, and purchase the same on the most reasonable terms for the use of the continent.

~~Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress proceeded to the appointment of the general officers and staff for the middle and southern departments.~~

Resolved, That Major General Lee be appointed to take

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XV, folio 15.

the command of the continental forces in the southern department.[1]

The Congress then proceeded to the election of Brigadier Generals, ||and the ballots being delivered in and examined,|| when the following gentlemen were elected:

John Armstrong, Esq^r.
William Thompson, Esq^r.
Andrew Lewis, Esq^r.
James Moore, Esq^r.
The Right Hon. William, Earl of Stirling.
Robert Howe, Esq^r.[2]

Resolved, That General Armstrong be directed to repair to South Carolina, General Lewis and General Howe to Virginia, and General Moore to North Carolina, there respectively to take the command of the forces until they receive further orders from Congress or a superior officer.

That General Thompson be directed immediately to repair to New York.

Resolved, That the orders of the day be postponed, to Monday.

Adjourned to Monday next at 10 o'Clock.[3]

[1] "After a warm contest, occasioned by the high estimation the Members of Congress have of your worth and abilities, (every one wishing to have you where he had most at stake,) the Congress have at length determined to supersede the orders given you to proceed to Canada, and have this day come to a resolution that you shall take the command of the Continental Forces in the Southern Department." *Hancock to Charles Lee*, 1 March, 1776.

[2] The names of Thompson, Moore, Stirling and Howe are entered by another hand than Thomson's [*i. e.* John Hancock?].

[3] In the *Minutes of the Provincial Congress of New Jersey*, 404, is found the following:

"Azariah Dunham brought from the Continental Congress, their determination upon the application of this Congress for forces to be stationed in this Colony; which being read, is in the words following:

'Application being made to Congress, by the Convention of New Jersey, for two more battalions, and two companies of artillery to be raised in that Colony, and the same being referred to a Committee; on the report of the said Committee, the Congress did not agree to the raising any more battalions, or companies in that Colony.

CHARLES THOMPSON.'"

"MARCH 1, 1776.

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1776

Resolved, That Mr. [John] Alsop be appointed a member of the Committee of Claims, in the room of Mr. [Francis] Lewis, who is absent; That Mr. [William] Whipple be appointed a member of the said committee in the room of Mr. [Josiah] Bartlett, who desires to be excused from that service.

That in case of the absence of any of the standing member of the Committee of Claims, the delegates of the colony to which he belongs, be empowered to nominate one of their number to act in his stead of said standing member, untill his return.

A number of letters and papers being received were read, viz.

1 from the convention of New York, dated the 28th February, enclosing a recommendation of gentlemen for field officers of the four batallions ordered to be raised in that colony:[1]

Resolved, That the same be referred for consideration till to morrow.

A memorial from sundry merchants of Montreal, respecting Indian trade:

Resolved, That this be referred to a committee of five Members chosen, Mr. [James] Wilson, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. W[illiam] Livingston, Mr. L[ewis] Morris and Mr. [Matthew] Tilghman.

A resolution of the committee of Inspection for the county of Accomac:

Resolved, That this be referred to a committee of the whole.

Two letters from General Wooster of the 11th and 13th February, 1776, with 7 papers enclosed in the former.

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 67, I, folio 180.

Two letters from General Arnold, 1, and 12 February, 1776:

Four letters from General Schuyler, of 15, 20, 21, and 23 February, 1776:

Resolved, That the foregoing letters from General Wooster, General Arnold and General Schuyler, be referred to the committee appointed to prepare instructions for the Commissioners going into Canada.

A letter from the Convention of New Hampshire, February 8:

A letter from General Lee 29 February:[1]

Resolved, That this be referred to the committee appointed to prepare instructions for the commissioners going to Canada.

||That the other letters be referred for consideration till to-morrow.||

The committee appointed to examine and report the number and circumstances of the permits granted for exporting produce, &c. brought in their report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the restraint be taken off, which was laid by a resolve of the 26th of last month, upon the vessels loading or loaded with Produce for Great Britain, Ireland, or the British West Indies, in consequence of permissions granted for arms and ammunition, &c. imported into these colonies.[2]

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed, with all possible expedition, to send, under a guard, ten tons of ~~salt petre~~ Powder to Cambridge, for the use of the army under the command of General Washington.

The committee, to whom the memorial from sundry

[1] The letters from Wooster are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 161, folios 265, 297. Those of Arnold are in No. 162, folios 58, 64. Those of Schuyler are in No. 153, I, folios 540, 552; and II, folios 1, 9. That of Lee is in No. 158, folio 29. That of the New Hampshire Convention is in No. 64, folio 5.

[2] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 4 March, 1776.

inhabitants of Northumberland, and the petition from the inhabitants near Pittsburg, were referred, brought in their report, which was read:

Ordered, To lie on the table for the perusal of the members.

Resolved, That Colonel Belestre, Major Longeuil, and Captain Lotbinière, three of the Canadian prisoners who are at Bristol, in Pensylvania, be permitted to come to Philadelphia, to confer with the Committee on Prisoners, and there await the orders of Congress.

A letter from the Committee of Safety for Pensylvania, was read, and referred till ~~to~~ morrow.[1]

||The order of the day being renewed,||

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1776

Sundry letters being received, were read.

2 letters from General Schuyler, dated 26th and 27th of February, with 4 papers enclosed, among which a letter from James Deane to General Schuyler, dated 24 February:[2]

Resolved, That the said letter from Mr. Deane to General Schuyler be referred to a committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. [Edward] Rutledge, Mr. [George] Wythe, and Mr. W[illiam] Livingston.

A letter from General Wooster, 21 February, 1776.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee to whom was referred among other things, the memorial of a number of inhabitants of the county of Northumberland, ~~brought in their report, which bein[g read] and agreed to the same as follows,~~ Whereupon,

Resolved, As the said memorial relates merely to disputes between the memorialists and other inhabitants of

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 69, I, folio 99.

[2] The letters from Schuyler are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 153, II, folios 19, 27.

said county, and to complaints against justices of the peace of the said county, and the common courts of judicature, and especially the legislature of the colony of Pensylvania, being altogether competent for remedying the grievances complained of, that the said memorial with the papers therewith delivered, be transmitted to the general assembly of said colony.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the letter from General Washington of the 14 February, with the enclosed letter from Lord Drummond to General Robertson, and after some time the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that the committee have had under consideration the letter from General Washington and the letter from Lord Drummond to General Robertson, but have come to no resolution thereon.

Resolved, That the letter of General Washington, so far as has not come under consideration of the committee of the whole, be referred to the committee to whom the letters from the General, dated 24 and 30 January were referred.

The order of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 1776

A letter from General Washington, dated 26th February, 1776, was read,[1] and referred to the committee to whom the other letters from the General have been referred.

A letter from J. Palmer, enclosing a report of a committee of the general assembly of Massachusetts bay, respecting lead, was read:

Resolved, That the committee appointed on the 31st of

[1]This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 505. It is printed in *Writings of Washington*, (Ford), III, 432.

July last, to enquire in all the colonies after virgin lead, leaden ore, and the best methods of collecting, smelting and refining it, and also the cheapest and easiest methods of making salt in these colonies, be discharged, and that the business of that committee be referred to the committee appointed on the 23 of February last, to consider of farther ways and means of promoting and encouraging the manufactures of salt-petre, &c.

Resolved, That the letter from J. Palmer, with the enclosed report, be referred to the last mentioned committee.

A letter from General Washington, dated 18 and 21 February, enclosing the result of a council of War, was read:[1]

Resolved, That Brigadier General Thomas be appointed to command the forces in Canada, and that General Washington be directed to order him immediately to repair to that province.

Resolved, That Brigadier General Thomas be promoted to the rank of a Major General, in the army of the United Colonies, and a commission be sent to him accordingly.

Ordered, That the president acquaint General Washington by express, of this arrangement.

As several members of the marine committee are absent,

Resolved, That their places be supplyed by Mr. [Samuel] Huntington, for Connecticut, Mr. [Jonathan Dickinson] Sergeant, for New Jersey, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, for Virginia, and Mr. E[dward] Rutledge, for South Carolina.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to send to New York 5 tons of powder for the use of the continental troops there,

That the Secret Committee be directed to send 5 tons

[1]This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 497. It is printed in *Writings of Washington* (Ford) III, 425.

of powder to the southern department for the use of the continental troops there.

To return to the colony of Maryland the powder borrowed by Mr. Harrison,

To return to the committee of safety of Pensylvania, the powder borrowed of them:

To deliver to the delegates of the three counties on Delaware, one ton of powder, for which they are to be accountable,

To return to the colony of New York the powder borrowed of that colony

To the delegates of New Jersey, one ton of powder, for which the said colony to be accountable.

Resolved, That the president acquaint General Schuyler, that the Congress judge it necessary he should remain at Albany to make the proper arrangements respecting the army destined for Canada, and therefore that he establish his head quarters at Albany until further orders.

Resolved, That Thomas Bullet, Esq^r^ be appointed deputy adjutant general in the southern department, with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to deliver to Colonel Wayne the arms in their possession, for the purpose of arming his batallion, ||retaining so many as will be necessary for the guard that is to attend the powder to Cambridge.||

The order of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1776

A letter from General Washington of the 9th February, and a letter from General Schuyler, 23 February, were read.[1]

[1] The letter of Washington is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 481. Schuyler's letter is in No. 153, II, folio 5.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of the delegates of Connecticut, for the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, in part of the money advanced by said colony, on account of the continent; the said colony to be accountable; and that the said colony be desired to send forward their accounts, with proper vouchers, in order for liquidation and payment.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to retain so many of the arms yesterday ordered to be delivered to Colonel Wayne, as will be necessary for the guard that is to attend the powder to Cambridge.

The Congress having received information, that Isaac Melchior, on the evening of Saturday last, treated the president of this Congress with great rudeness, and made use of several disrespectful and contemptuous expressions towards him and of this Congress,

Ordered, That the said Isaac Melchior attend the Congress to morrow morning at eleven o'Clock, to answer for his conduct.

Resolved, That Edward Hand, Esq[r] be promoted to be Colonel of the batallion of rifflemen in the army at Cambridge, and James Chambers, Esq[r] lieutenant colonel of the same.

That William Winds, Esq[r] be promoted to be colonel of the first New Jersey batallion, and Matthias Ogden, Esq. be appointed lieutenant colonel of said batallion.

Resolved, That the Committee appointed to provide medicine chests be directed to supply the first and third New Jersey batallions with proper medicine chests and instruments.

A letter from Lord Stirling, with Affidavits, relative to the capture of the Amboy Packet, was laid before Congress [and read]:[1]

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 162, folio 420. The boat was the *York*.

Resolved, That the same be referred to the committee to whom the letters from General Washington were referred.

The committee to whom the letter from the committee of safety of New Hampshire was referred, brought in their report, which was read.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Hall and Sellers, for printing the continental bills of Credit, the sum of £650.15.7=1735.4 dollars:

To Frederick Bicking, for 102 Reams of paper for the continental bills of credit, the sum of £265 4=707.2 dollars:

To the estate of David Hall, deceased, for stationary for the service of Congress, the sum of £18 19 11=50.6 dollars:

To Robert Erwin, for 20 cords of wood, the sum of £30=80 dollars:

To Wallore Meng, for canteen straps, the sum of £31.12.6=84.3 dollars:

To Jared Tracey, for carrying money from Philadelphia to Cambridge, the sum of 36 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Josiah Bartlett, Esq[r].

To sundries, on certificates for provisions furnished several riffle companies, the sum of £14 2 9 New York currency=35.3 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to John Alsop, Esq[r].

To Thomas Apty, for boarding several prisoners taken from on board the *Rebecca and Ann*, the sum of £20.10.3 =54 7/10 dollars.

To Robert Erwin, for waggonage, the sum of £239.2.5 =637.7 dollars.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

Resolved, That to morrow morning be assigned for electing the field officers of the four battalions ordered

to be raised in the colony of New York, for the defence of said colony.

The order of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1776

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress proceeded to the election of field officers of the four batallions, ordered to be raised in the colony of New York, for the defence of that colony, and the ballots being taken,

Alexander M'Dougal, Esq^r. was elected Colonel, Herman Zedwitz, lieutenant Colonel, and Joseph Benedict, Esq^r. Major of the first ||battalion||.

James Clinton, Esq^r. Colonel, Henry B. Livingston, Esq^r. lieutenant Colonel, Peter P. Schuyler, Esq^r. Major of the second ||battalion||.

Frederick Weissenfels, lieutenant Colonel, John Fisher, [Visscher] Esq^r. Major of the third ||battalion||.

Cornelius D. Wyncoop, Esq^r. Colonel, Philip Courtlandt, Esq^r. lieutenant Colonel, John Nicholson, Esq. Major of the fourth ||battalion.||

The Congress being informed that Mr. Melchior was attending agreeable to the order of yesterday:

Ordered, That he be called in.

Mr. Melchior appearing, the particulars of the charge were repeated to him, and on his assuring the house of his not remembering his having behaved with the disrespect mentioned, owing to the particular circumstances he happened to be under, and asking pardon of the Congress and president for his indecent behaviour,

Ordered, That in consideration of Mr. Melchior's former services, and his present concessions, he be dismissed from farther attendance.

The Committee, to whom the several letters from Major General Lee, Major General Schuyler, Brigadier General

Wooster, and Brigadier General Arnold were referred, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration; and whereupon,

Resolved, That the gentlemen who are appointed to go into Canada, be desired to enquire into the cause of the imprisonment of the officers of Militia, in that country and others, and take such measures in concert with the commanding officer of the continental forces there, for their enlargement or confinement, as are consistent with the principles of justice, and the safety of the United Colonies.

That the provisions made by General Lee and General Schuyler to supply the army in Canada with pork, the direction given by General Lee to have wheat ground into flour for their use, and his contract with the company of carpenters, be approved of; and that Mr. Peter Zabriskie, of Hackinsack, be employed to transport the pork, to be procured in New Jersey, to Hudson's river, according to General Schuyler's desire.

That when the articles specified, in the rations allowed to the prisoners of war, cannot be procured, the persons who supply them with other provisions, be entitled to eight pence, of New York currency, ||or one-twelfth of a dollar|| for every prisoner per day:

That Indians be not employed as soldiers in the armies of the United Colonies, before the tribes to which they belong shall, in a national council, held in the customary manner, have consented thereunto, nor then, without express approbation of Congress.

That General Schuyler be directed to provide such a number of batteaus for the service in Canada, as shall be sufficient for it.

That General Schuyler be desired to purchase the cloth, which Mr. [John?] Henry, of Albany, hath for tents.

That the committee of inspection and observation for the city and liberties of Philadelphia, be desired to collect all the gold and silver coin they can, to be exchanged for continental bills ||of credit,|| for the service of Canada.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to enquire and report the best ways and means of supplying the army in Canada with provisions and necessaries:

The members chosen, Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, Mr. [Oliver] Wolcott, and Mr. L[ewis] Morris.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of the committee for making of muskets, and bayonets, &c., for the sum of 10,000 dollars, they to be accountable for the expenditure thereof.

A letter from Colonel Hazen, dated 18 February, 1776, enclosing an account and estimate of the losses he has sustained, being received was read:[1]

Resolved, That the same be referred to Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, Mr. [Samuel] Ward, and Mr. S[amuel] Adams, who are directed to examine the said Account, and report upon the several articles.

A letter from Governor Trumbull, dated 2 March, was received and read.

A letter from General Lee, dated 5 March, 1776, being received, was read.[2]

The order of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1776

Resolved, That a letter be written to General Washington, directing him to send Captain Conner, of the riffle battalion, to Philadelphia, the Congress having occasion to employ him in the southern department.

The committee appointed to prepare instructions for

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XI, folio 17.

[2] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 66, I, folio 83.

the commissioners going to Canada, brought in a draught which was read:

Ordered, To lie on the table for the perusal and consideration of the members.

A petition of Mr. Stephen Decatur, Master of the Schooner *L'Esperance* of the Island of Hispaniola, was presented and read, whereupon

Resolved, That the said Mr. Stephen Decatur be permitted to load the Schooner *L'esperance* of Hispaniola with the produce of these colonies (horned cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry and lumber for making casks excepted) and export the same to the island of Hispaniola and that the said Stephen Decatur do take every possible precaution to avoid all British men of war and cutters on his voyage and use his utmost endeavours to import into these colonies the powder and arms mentioned in his Memorial and proposed to be imported by him.

A petition from John Babtisto Hugonene, Master of the Tartar the *Marc Anthony* was presented and read and the same being taken into consideration

Resolved, That John Babtisto Hugonene, Master of the tartar the *Marc Anthony* be permitted to load the said vessel in which he imported a small quantity of ammunition, with the produce of these colonies (horned cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry and lumber for making casks excepted) and export the same to the island of Martinique and as the said vessel is not sufficient to carry the amount of the cargo by him imported, that he be permitted to purchase and load another vessel with produce under the exceptions before expressed and export the same to said island of Martinico and that the said John Babtisto Hugonene and the master of the vessel which he shall purchase do take every possible precaution to avoid all British Ships of war and cutters on their voyage, and that

he use his utmost endeavours to import into these colonies the powder and arms mentioned in his memorial and proposed to be imported by him.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to take into consideration the state of the colonies in the southern department:

The members chosen, Mr. [Thomas] Johnson, Mr. [John] Jay, Mr. S[amuel] Adams, Mr. [Jonathan Dickinson] Sergeant, and Mr. [Roger] Sherman.

Resolved, That the following gentlemen be appointed and authorized to sign and number the bills of credit of four millions of dollars, now emitting, viz:

Samuel Morris, John Kaighn, Nicholas Garrison, Joseph Watkins, Anthony Morris, Frederick Kuhl, Matthew Clarkson, John Ord, William Webb, Isaac Hazlehurst, Thomas Morris, Mordecai Lewis, Cornelius Barnes, Jonathan B. Smith, Robert Tuckniss, Thomas Coombe, Daniel Clymer, George Campbell, Joseph Parker, Robert Evans, Adam Hubley, Joel Evans, John Mease, John Purviance, Robert Hazlehurst, Walter Shee, Joseph Redman, Phineas Bond, William Masters, John Salter, John Howard, Thomas Leech, Thomas Smith, Philip Kinsey, Robert Roberts, Isaac Howell, James Milligan, Tench Tilghman, David Duncan, Joseph Bullock, John Shaw, Jun. James Johnston, Benjamin Brannan, Samuel Sellers, Isaac Pearson, John Sellers, Benjamin Jacobs, Israel Wheelen, Josiah Hewes, Andrew Tybout, George Douglas, Peter Stretch, Samuel C. Morris, Samuel Hillegas, Nathan Sellers, George Gray, Jun. James Ash, Samuel Massey, John Williams, and William Coates.

Resolved, That before the signers enter upon their office, they shall respectively take an oath or affirmation before any magistrate, which shall be filed with the committee of the treasury, to the following effect; that they

shall well and truly sign and number all the bills to be delivered to them by the inspectors of the press appointed by the Congress, and the same so signed and numbered, shall deliver, or cause to be delivered, to the continental treasurers, or one of them.

And, for avoiding the danger of losses from fire, robbery, or negligence,

Resolved, That the inspectors of the press shall not deliver to any class of signers more than two deliveries of two hundred sheets each, to be in their hands at any one time.

Resolved, That no oath by way of test be imposed upon, exacted, or required of any of the inhabitants of these colonies, by any military officers.[1]

Ordered, That the above be published.

[1] This resolve was framed, debated and passed in consequence of a letter of General Charles Lee, dated March 5, received and debated this day. The resolution was printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 13 March, 1776.

"General Lee informed Congress, by letter, that he had imposed a Test upon the inhabitants of our Colony, in order to ascertain their political principles. However salutary such a measure might be, when grounded on a legal and constitutional basis, we were much alarmed that it should owe its authority to any military officer, however distinguished for his zeal, his rank, his accomplishments, and services. We considered it as one of the most solemn and important acts of legislation, and a high encroachment upon your rights as the Representatives of a free people. We could not, therefore, be silent upon so momentous a point, though we were not favoured with your sentiments or instructions, nor informed of what, or whether anything had passed between you and the General respecting the disaffected inhabitants. We took up the subject on general principles. There can be no liberty where the military is not subordinate to the civil power in everything not immediately connected with their operations. Your House, the natural and proper tribunal for all civil matters within the circle of your own jurisdiction, was assembled, and Congress itself within the General's reach, ready to enforce every reasonable proposition for the publick safety. To one or other he ought to have applied. A similar effort in Rhode Island had passed over unnoticed; reiterated precedents must become dangerous; we therefore conceived it to be our unquestionable duty to assert the independence and superiority of the civil power, and to call the attention of Congress to this unwarrantable invasion of its rights by one of their officers. A resolution passed in consequence, on the 8th [9th] of March, that no oath, by way of test, be imposed upon, exacted, or required of any inhabitant of these Colonies by any military officer; and it was ordered to be immediately published. We flatter ourselves that our conduct on this occasion will meet with your approbation." *New York Delegates to the New York Committee of Safety*, 1 March, 1776. Force, *American Archives*, Fourth Series, V, 1392.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to deliver one ton of powder to the delegates of Maryland, for the public service in that colony.

The order of the day renewed.

||The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,||

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Monday next.

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1776

A letter from Lord Stirling, dated March 8th, 1776, enclosing three papers;[1]

A letter of the convention of New York, of the 7th, enclosing an application from Patrick Sinclair, ||a prisoner,|| for leave to return to Europe, ||were laid before Congress and read.||[2]

The Congress, taking into consideration the said letter and application,

Resolved, That Mr. Patrick Sinclair be allowed to return to Europe.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of Mr. [John] Alsop, Mr. [Francis] Lewis, and Mr. [Roger] Sherman, the Committee appointed to provide necessaries for the northern army, for the sum of 2,500 dollars, to pay for shoes.

Resolved, That a committee of 3 be appointed to confer with General Lee, and devise the best ways and means for the defence of New York.[3]

The members, Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee, Mr. [William] Whipple, and Mr. [Edward] Rutledge.

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 162, folio 432.

[2] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 67, I, folio 190. Sinclair was Lieutenant Governor and Superintendent at Michilimackinac.

[3] Lee had been ordered to Philadelphia, and arrived on this day.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Benjamin Towne, for 789 canteens, the sum of £128 4 3 = 341.9 dollars.

Ordered, That the above be paid.

Resolved, That the committee on applications and qualifications &c. be directed to provide 6 medicine chests for the 6 Virginia batallions.

The Congress took into consideration the instructions to the commissioners going to Canada, and after some time spent thereon,

Resolved, That the further consideration thereof be postponed till to Morrow.

The order of the day being renewed,

||The matters to this day referred, being postponed,||

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1776

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of James Mease, commissary, the sum of 20,000 dollars, he to be accountable.

A petition from Edmund Custis, and a letter from the committees of Accomac and Northampton, were presented and read:

Resolved, That the same be referred to the committee of the whole.

A letter from sundry inhabitants of Westmoreland, dated the 6th, was read:[1]

Ordered, To lie on the table.

A petition from Dr. Hall Jackson, of the 12 February last, was presented and read.

Ordered, To lie on the table.

[1] This letter, dated the 8th, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 69, I, folio 101. It covered a petition dated the 6th.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the instructions to the commissioners going to Canada, and after some time spent thereon,

Resolved, That the farther consideration thereof be postponed till to Morrow.

The Committee to whom the letter from Colonel Moses Hazen, and the report of persons appointed to state the account of losses and damages sustained by him in Canada, were referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration was agreed to as follows:

It appears to your committee that the loss and damage sustained by Colonel Hazen in Canada, have not been estimated with sufficient accuracy; that some of the articles enumerated in the inventory are presumed to be over rated, the quantities of several others reducible to exactness in number, weight, or measure, are not ascertained, and the reasons for the knowledge or belief of any of them by the witnesses are not explicit enough in their examinations; that, although the grain, grass and hay mentioned in the account are admitted by Colonel Hazen, in his letter, to have been partly destroyed by the ministerial troops, the whole value is extended; that the estimates of the crops are so general, it cannot be discovered by what rule they were formed, or to what standard adjusted; that the damages done to the dwelling house, stone house, out-houses, barn, and farms, are not particularized or specifyed; that a considerable part of what a reimbursement is claimed for, is household furniture, wearing apparel, tools, utensils, cables, and anchors, suggested to have been plundered by the troops of the United Colonies, and the Canadians who joined them; and your committee believe no reparation of the like kind hath yet been made by Congress; and that the profits which might have been made of the mills and houses, if the

owner had not been deprived of the use of them, being merely contingent and conjectural, are such as have not usually been made good in similar cases: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the commissioners who are going to Canada be desired to appoint proper persons to examine, state and settle an account of the loss and damage Colonel Hazen hath sustained in his property and possessions in Canada, by the forces of the United Colonies, and report the same, with any special matters they may think fit, to Congress; annexing to their report the estimates, examinations of witnesses, and other papers relative thereto.[1]

Resolved, That if any of the gentlemen appointed field officers in the four batallions raising in New York, for the defence of that colony, are provided for in Canada, they be directed to continue there, exercising the offices to which they are appointed, and that others be elected in their room, in the four batallions aforesaid; and that such of them as are not provided for in Canada, be directed immediately to repair to their respective batallions.

The order of the day being renewed,

||The matters to this day referred, being postponed,||

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1776

A letter from the committee of Essex, in New Jersey, of the 7th, was read, also

A letter from Mr. J. Macpherson, of the 12, was read:[2]

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of Samuel Fairlamb, Commissary of the 4 Pen-

[1] This report, in the writing of George Wythe, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, III, 93. The last paragraph, in the writing of Roger Sherman, is in No. 58, folio 365.

[2] The Essex letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 68, folio 109. That of Macpherson is in No. 78, XV, folio 23.

sylvania, ||contractor for supplying Colonel Wayne's battalion with rations,|| for the sum of 1,000 dollars he to be accountable.

Resolved, That the bills drawn by the treasurers of North Carolina, for the use of the continental troops ||in that colony||, be paid.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to supply the colony of Maryland with 500 lb. of powder, for the use of the inhabitants of Cecil county.

Resolved, That a committee of 7 be appointed to enquire and report the best ways and means of raising the necessary supplies to defray the expences of the war for the present year, over and above the emission of bills of credit.

The members chosen, Mr. [Thomas] Johnson, Mr. [James] Duane, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, Mr. R[obert] Morris, Mr. [Samuel] Ward, and Mr. [George] Wythe.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To sundries, for expences incurred at the Oration in memory of General Montgomery, the sum of £35 7 6= 94 3/10 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Dr. Franklin.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

The Committee to whom the memorial from the Indian traders at Montreal was referred, brought in their [report.]

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the memorial from the merchants, ||traders, and others, inhabitants|| of Philadelphia, the memorial of Edmund Custis, the letter from the committee of Accomac and Northampton, the letters from General Washington, and the state of the trade of the United Colonies, and after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported, that the com-

mittee have taken into consideration the matters to them referred, but not having come to any resolution, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to Morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the matters heretofore referred to them.

||Mr. W[illiam] Livingston moved for leave to bring in a resolution for appointing a fast, which was granted.||

Resolved, That the marine committee be directed to purchase the armed vessel now in the river Delaware, on the most reasonable terms, for the service of the continent, and that her destination be left to the said marine committee.

Resolved, That the expences of the aids de camp's horses when travelling ||in the public service||, be charged to the account of the United Colonies.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1776

The committee appointed to confer with General Lee respecting the defence of New York, brought in their report, ||which was read: Whereupon,||

The command of the passage of the Sound must be ours. this I imagine is already effected by the works thrown up at Horne Hook; but as a farther security, batteries and a redoubt must be erected on the other side, either in [1] Island or on the Continent of Long Island, as the Engineer and succeeding General shall determine. these additional works are not solely meant to shut up to the Enimy the passage through the sound, but to secure a free open and easy communication to our own Troops betwixt the Continent of New York and Long Island. As the City of New York is almost environ'd by navigable waters it is undoubtedly very dificult to fortify it against a powerful sea armament; but still I am of opinion that although Troops cannot

[1] In a version of this paper, printed in the *Lee Papers*, (New York Historical Society,) II, 354, the name *Montresor* is here inserted.

easily be prevented landing under the Guns of their shipping, they may be prevented lodging themselves in it, or converting it into a great place of arms as they have done Boston. the East River, I am almost persuaded, may be secur'd in such a manner that their Ships will scarcely venture into it, or at least they cannot keep their stations when in. a Battery for this purpose is plan'd and in some forwardness at the foot of the Jews burying ground, to protect this Battery from the near approach of Ships (which when close are always supposed to be an over match for Batteries level with the water and in a low situation) Guns in barbet placed on the heights of the Jews burying ground, ~~with~~ when in correspondence with a Battery I have ordered on an opposite commanding knoll in Long Island, will certainly be sufficient. these two fires will likewise be cross'd by a third of very considerable range from a work in the front of our trench'd Camp in Long Island, which work is likewise answered by a Battery sunk in a celler on the opposite Wharfe. such is our plan with respect to the east River, haveing attentively examined the Fort and great Batteries under it and consider'd whether they cou'd be of any possible use to us. I am of opinion that as Ships of great Burthen can approach so near the latter it will be dangerious if not impracticable to support them.

The Fort cannot for the same reason be defended, but as it is not possible in our hands to render it a fortification of offence against the Enimy, it might in their possession be converted into a Citadel to keep the Town in subjection. These considerations have induc'd me to throw down the north East and North West Bastions, with the communicating Curtain, so that being entirely open behind, and a commanding Traverse thrown across the Broad Way with three Guns mounted, ~~renders it~~ it is impossible for the Enimy to lodge themselves in and repair the Fort. The north River is so extremely wide and deep that it is in vain to think of any means to prevent the men of war commanding the navigation of it, but it does not appear to me, that they have it in their power to annoy ~~a great deal~~ dangerously the Town, much less to destroy it, It is true an accidental shell may do great mischief, but the effects of their Cannon are not I think much to be apprehended for there is a most fortunate ridge of Eminence which not only serves as a screen of protection for the Town but on which any number of Batteries may be erected to keep the Ships at a distance. I must observe once for all that New York from its circum-

stances can with difficulty be made a regular tenable fortification, but it may be made a most advantageous field of Battle, so advantageous indeed, that if our people behave with common spirit, and the Commanders are men of discretion, it must cost the Enimy many thousands of men to get possession of it. The Streets must be traversed and barricadoed, so as to prevent their coming on our Flanks. three Redoubts thrown up on the three eminences Judge Jones, Bayards Hill, and either Lispenards or Haldermans house on Hudsons River, but these measures are not to be confin'd to the Town, the whole Island is to be redoubted in certain regular steps (if I may so express it) quite to Kings Bridge, these redoubts redans or Fliches are easily thrown up and are no expence. the leading roads from Hudsons River whence the Enimy can alone approach must be obstructed to artillery. Kings Bridge must be strongly fortified to preserve the communication free and open with Connecticut, on which Province you can alone depend for succours of men, for the Breadth and depth of the north River renders the Communication with Jersey too precarious. The possession and security of Long Island is certainly of still greater importance than New York. I have accordingly marked out a Camp fortified by a Chain of Redoubts mutually supporting each other, and which also corresponding with the Batteries on the New York side will prevent the Enimies entering or remaining in the east River. This Camp is intended to contain four or five thousand men; upon the whole for the defence of Long Island and New York eight thousand, at least, regular Troops will be necessary. With respect to the Fort on Hudsons River in the high Land I must refer the Congress to the report of Capt. Smith who was sent up to examine and who is extremely capable to judge and advise. I have now in a military capacity to the best of my recollection mentioned every circumstance relative to the Defence and security of New York and Long Island, but think it my duty to observe that all these measures will be totally fruitless unless some precautions are taken with respect to the profess'd Enimies of American Liberty nested in the very spots where they can do the greatest mischief Queens County and Staten Island. The Bonds they have given are too ridiculous to be mentioned, the association they have signed they consider as forced upon 'em, and consequently null. When our own Troops are obliged to remain inactive from want of arms, when from this deficiency the Canada Expedition is at a stand, New York and Long Island left open to the invasions of

the Enimy, is it not a most dangerious neglect, omission, or rather unaccountable infatuation, to suffer considerable Bodies of avowed Foes to be possessed of arms for your destruction? what possible advantage can result from such a false delicacy? I wou'd therefore humbly propose that the Inhabitants of Statten Island shou'd ~~be~~ without loss of time be disarm'd and their arms delivered to some Regiment already raised but unfurnished with muskets. I do not imagine that the disarming the Tories will incapacitate them ~~Forces~~ from acting against us, as they can easily be supplied by the Ships. I shou'd therefore think it prudent to ~~take~~ secure their Children as Hostages if a measure of this kind (hard as it may appear) is not adopted, the Childrens Children of america may ~~be~~ rue the fatal omission[1]

Resolved, That eight thousand men be ordered for the defence of the colony of New York.

Resolved, That orders issue to Colonel Irvine, immediately to march with his batallion to New York, and put himself under the command of the officer commanding there.

That Colonel Dayton be like wise ordered with his batallion to march to New York, and join the forces there.

That Colonel Shee and Colonel Magaw be like wise ordered to march with their batallions to New York.

A letter from General Prescot of 14th, was laid before Congress, and read:

[1] The original, in the writing of William Whipple (?), with a few words inserted by General Lee, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 21, folio 11.

General Lee sent to Washington the following account of earlier conferences held with a Committee of the Congress:

"The Congress Committee, a certain number of the Committee of Safety, and your humble servant, have had two Conferences. The result of these conferences is such as will agreeably surprise you. It is in the first place, agreed, and justly, that to fortify the town against shipping is impracticable; but we are to fortify lodgements, in some commanding part of the City, for two thousand men. We are to erect enclosed batteries on both sides the water, near Hellgate, which will answer, the double purpose of securing the town against piracies through the Sound, and secure our communication with Long Island, now become a more capital point than ever, as it is determined to form a strong fortified camp of three thousand men in that island, immediately opposite to New York. The pass in the Highlands is to be made as respectable as possible, and guarded by a battalion. In short I think the plan judicious and complete." *Lee to Washington*, 5 February, 1776.

Resolved, That the committee on prisoners be directed to confer with General Prescot on the subject of his letter, and report to Congress.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several assemblies, conventions, and councils or committees of safety of the United Colonies, immediately to cause all persons to be disarmed within their respective colonies, who are notoriously disaffected to the cause of America, or who have not associated, and shall refuse to associate, to defend, by arms, these United Colonies, against the hostile attempts of the British fleets and armies; and to apply the arms taken from such persons in each respective colony, in the first place to the arming the continental troops raised in said colony; in the next, to the arming such troops as are raised by the colony for its own defence, and the residue to be applied to the arming the associators; that the arms when taken be appraised by indifferent persons, and such as are applied to the arming the continental troops, be paid for by Congress, and the residue by the respective assemblies, conventions, or councils, or committees of safety:[1]

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolve be transmitted by the delegates of each colony, to their respective assemblies, conventions, or councils, or committees of safety.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To William Hencher, for waggon hire, in conveying Captain Stevenson's baggage, &c. to Cambridge, the sum of £21 17 6=58.3 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Moses Hunter.

To Rachel Stille, for boarding several officers, prisoners, to the 8th of March instant, the sum of £84 6 5=224.7 dollars.

[1] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 20 March, 1776.

To Joseph Fineur, for five hundred and eleven tin cartridge boxes, the sum of £83 0 9=221.4 dollars.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

The order of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1776

A letter from General Washington, March 7th, with 2 enclosed papers, was laid before Congress, and read.[1]

2 letters from Lord Stirling, of the 12 [10] and 13;

1 letter from lieutenant Colonel [William] Allen, [Jr.] 13;

A letter from the convention of New York;

A letter from General Schuyler, 6th.

And a number of intercepted letters, were laid before Congress, and read.

Resolved, That the expences of the horses of general officers, when travelling in the service of the continent, be defrayed by the United Colonies.

Ordered, That Col. [Richard Henry] Lee, and Dr. [Benjamin] Franklin, be appointed to call on General Lee, and direct him immediately to repair to the southern department, and take the command of the forces there.

Resolved, That four musquets and bayonets be lent to the delegates of Virginia, for the use of the guard that accompanies the powder going to Virginia.

On motion made, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the state of New York, and, after some time spent thereon,

[1] This letter, with enclosures, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 509. It is printed in *Writings of Washington* (Ford), III, 448. Those of Stirling are in No. 162, folios 447, 451. That of Allen is in No. 78, I, folio 1. That of the Convention of New York is in No. 67, I, folio 194. That of Schuyler is in No. 153, II, folio 37.

the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that the committee had taken into consideration the matter to them referred, and had come to certain resolutions, which he was ready to report.

Ordered, That the same be delivered in.

The report of the committee of the whole being read, was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That Captain Nelson, with his riffle company, be directed immediately to repair to New York.

Resolved, That the governor of Connecticut, the convention and councils, or committees of safety of New York and New Jersey, be requested to hold their militias in readiness to march in such numbers, and at such times, for the defence of New York, as the continental commander at New York, shall desire; and that the pay of the militia called to the defence of New York, be the same as that of the continental troops raised and employed in the middle department, to commence from the time they begin their march.

Resolved, That Lord Stirling be directed to order the troops destined for Canada to proceed on their march, agreeable to their former orders.

The order of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1776

A letter from Lord Stirling dated 14th, with a paper enclosed containing a copy of general orders for the defence of New York, ||was laid before Congress, and read:||[1]

Resolved, That a letter be written to Lord Stirling, directing him immediately to send forward the powder

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 162, folio 455.

destined for Cambridge, unless he has received express advice from General Washington, that the enemy's fleet and army have sailed out of the harbour of Boston.

Resolved, That the account of Mr. Price, of Canada, be referred to the Committee of Claims.

A petition from Coquataginta or Captain White Eyes, was presented to Congress and read:

Resolved, That the same be referred to a committee of 3.

The members chosen, Mr. L[ewis] Morris, Mr. [James] Wilson, and Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee.

Resolved, That Captain D[uncan] Campbell, a prisoner at Lancaster, have leave to come to Philadelphia to meet his wife and children, and there reside till further orders.[2]

Mr. W[illiam] Livingston, pursuant to leave granted, brought in a resolution for appointing a fast, which ||being taken into consideration,|| was agreed to as follows:

In times of impending calamity and distress; when the liberties of America are imminently endangered by the secret machinations and open assaults of an insidious and vindictive administration, it becomes the indispensable duty of these hitherto free and happy colonies, with true penitence of heart, and the most reverent devotion, publickly to acknowledge the over ruling providence of God; to confess and deplore our offences against him; and to supplicate his interposition for averting the threatened danger, and prospering our strenuous efforts in the cause of freedom, virtue, and posterity.

The Congress, therefore, considering the warlike preparations of the British Ministry to subvert our invaluable rights and priviledges, and to reduce us by fire and sword, by the savages of the wilderness, and our own domestics, to the most abject and ignominious bondage: Desirous, at the same time, to have people of all ranks and degrees duly impressed with a solemn sense of God's superintending providence, and of their duty, devoutly to rely, in all their lawful enter-

[2] "It having been represented to Congress that Mrs. Campbell has arrived in this city, and so much indisposed as not to be able to pursue her design of visiting you at Reading, and being desirous of seeing you, I am directed by Congress" &c. *John Hancock to Captain Campbell*, 16 March, 1776.

prizes, on his aid and direction, Do earnestly recommend, that Friday, the Seventeenth day of May next, be observed by the said colonies as a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer; that we may, with united hearts, confess and bewail our manifold sins and transgressions, and, by a sincere repentance and amendment of life, appease his righteous displeasure, and, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, obtain his pardon and forgiveness; humbly imploring his assistance to frustrate the cruel purposes of our unnatural enemies; and by inclining their hearts to justice and benevolence, prevent the further effusion of kindred blood. But if, continuing deaf to the voice of reason and humanity, and inflexibly bent on desolation and war, they constrain us to repel their hostile invasions by open resistance, that it may please the Lord of Hosts, the God of Armies, to animate our officers and soldiers with invincible fortitude, to guard and protect them in the day of battle, and to crown the continental arms, by sea and land, with victory and success: Earnestly beseeching him to bless our civil rulers, and the representatives of the people, in their several assemblies and conventions; to preserve and strengthen their union, to inspire them with an ardent, disinterested love of their country; to give wisdom and stability to their counsels; and direct them to the most efficacious measures for establishing the rights of America on the most honourable and permanent basis—That he would be graciously pleased to bless all his people in these colonies with health and plenty, and grant that a spirit of incorruptible patriotism, and of pure undefiled religion, may universally prevail; and this continent be speedily restored to the blessings of peace and liberty, and enabled to transmit them inviolate to the latest posterity. And it is recommended to Christians of all denominations, to assemble for public worship, and abstain from servile labour on the said day.

Resolved, That the foregoing resolve be published.[1]

Resolved, That another Brigadier General be appointed in the continental army.

The ballots being taken and examined,

The Baron de Woedtke was elected.

Resolved, That the baron Frederic William de Woedtke, appointed a Brigadier General in the army of the United

[1] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 20 March, 1776.

Colonies, be ordered immediately to repair to New York, there to remain under the commanding officer, until the commissioners appointed to go into Canada shall reach that colony: and that the said Baron Woedtke be directed to accompany them into Canada, and there serve under the commander of the continental troops in that province.

Resolved, That Carpenter Wharton, Commissary, continue, agreeable to his contract, to supply with rations the Pensylvania batallions serving in New York.

A petition from Joseph Blewer and Daniel Robinson was presented to Congress, and read:[1]

Resolved, That the same be referred to the committee of the whole.

The Congress then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their further consideration the Memorial from the traders, and others, inhabitants of Philadelphia, the petitions from Accomac and Northampton, and from J. Blewer and D. Robinson, &c. and after some time spent thereon the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that the committee had taken into consideration the matters to them referred, but not having come to a conclusion, desired him to move for leave to sit again on Monday next.

Resolved, That this Congress will, on Monday next, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into farther consideration the Memorial from the traders and others, inhabitants of Philadelphia &c. ~~And that there be a call of the House at 11 o Clock.~~

Adjourned to Monday next, at 10 o Clock.

[1]A letter from Blewer and Robinson to Messrs. Deane, Adams and Wythe, dated February 2, 1776, respecting the brigantine *Sea Nymph*, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 58, folio 437.

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1776

Resolved, That the treasurers be directed to lay on the table an Account of the silver and gold coin in the treasury.

Resolved, That Monsieur Arundel be directed to repair to the southern department, and put himself under the command of General Lee; and that General Lee, if he find him capable, be directed to employ him in the artillery service.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of James Mease, Commissary, for the sum of 20,000 dollars, to be applied to the procuring necessaries, and payment of the subsistence of the Pensylvania batallions; and that the colonels be directed to account with Mr. Mease for the several sums advanced to them.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the memorial from the merchants, traders, and others, of the city of Philadelphia, the memorial of Edmund Custis, the letter from the committees of Accomac and Northampton, and the petition of Joseph Blewer and Daniel Robinson, and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that the committee had taken into consideration the matters to them referred, and have come to sundry resolutions, but not having come to a conclusion, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

Mr. Henry, not having accepted the commission of Colonel, Congress proceeded to the election of a colonel for the first Virginia batallion, and the ballots being taken,

William Christian, Esq^{r} formerly lieutenant Colonel in said regiment, was elected colonel: and,

Frank Eppes, Esq[r] formerly Major, was elected lieutenant Colonel; and

John Green, was elected Major.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to morrow morning, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the memorial of the merchants, traders and others, Inhabitants of Philadelphia, the memorial of Edmund Custis, &c.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1776

Resolved, That Monsieur Dohicky Arundel be appointed a captain of artillery in the continental service.

That General Lee be directed to set on foot the raising a company of artillery, and it be recommended to the convention or committee of safety of Virginia, to appoint the other officers of said company of artillery.

A letter from col. Dayton, of the 15, was presented to Congress, and read:

Referred to the committee on procuring musquets.

A letter from Mr. Tucker, President of the convention of New Jersey, of the 17, was presented to Congress, and read: Whereupon,

Resolved, That Captain Woolverton, with his company, be taken into the service of the United Colonies; and that he be directed to repair, with his company, as soon as properly armed and accoutred, to New York, and put himself under the command of the officer commanding there; and that the pay of Captain Woolverton's company commence from the time they are provided with arms and accoutrements.

A letter from Colonel Belestre, [a Canadian prisoner,] of the 16th, and sundry letters from Cameron and Smith, were read:

Resolved, That the same be referred to the committee on prisoners.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to supply the Brig *Lexington*, Captain Barry, with one ton of powder.

Ordered, That the committee to whom was referred the state and situation of the prisoners at Trenton, report thereon as soon as possible.

Resolved, That the sum of 250,000 dollars be sent to the pay master general, for the use of the army under the immediate command of General Washington:

Resolved, That the sum of 50,000 dollars be sent to General Schuyler, for the use of the army under his command.

The committee appointed to prepare instructions, &c. to the commissioners going to Canada, brought in a draught of farther instructions, and of a commission, which were read.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the memorial from the merchants, traders, and others, inhabitants of Philadelphia, the memorial of Edmund Custis, the letter from the committees of Accomac and Northampton, and the petition of Joseph Blewer and Daniel Robinson, and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that the committee had taken into consideration the matters to them referred, and had come to sundry resolutions, which he delivered in:

The report of the committee being read, was agreed to, and is as follows:[1]

[1] Here were inserted the resolutions which are printed under 23 March, 1776, *post*, and are not repeated in this place.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to draw up a declaration pursuant to foregoing resolutions, ||and lay the same before Congress:||

The members chosen, Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. [John] Jay, and Mr. [James] Wilson.

Resolved, That it be an instruction to the said committee, to receive ||and insert|| a clause or clauses, that all seamen and mariners on board of merchants ships and vessels, taken and condemned as prize, shall be entitled to their pay, according to the terms of their contracts, until the time of the condemnation.

The committee to whom the letters and papers from Mr. Mease, were referred, brought in their report, which was read:

Ordered, To lie on the table.

Resolved, That Mr. [William] Whipple be appointed a member of the Marine Committee, and of the Committee for receiving the applications and examining the qualifications of gentlemen who apply for offices in the continental service.

The committee to whom the letters from General Washington, of the 14th and 26th of February last, and the letter from Lord Stirling, of the 25 of the same month, were referred, brought in their report, which was read; and the same being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That the first part thereof be re-committed.

Resolved, That the value of the passage boat, *York*, be made good to Michael Kearney, Jun^{r} the owner thereof; it appearing that she was impressed into the continental service, and employed in taking the ship *Blue Mountain Valley*, and for that reason, afterwards seized and detained by order of Captain Parker, commander of the British ship of war *Phœnix;* and that Lord Stirling be desired to appoint proper persons to value the said boat, and report such valuation to Congress.

The Congress proceeded to the election of a member of the Secret Committee, in the room of Mr. [Josiah] Bartlett, ||who is absent,|| and

The ballots being taken,

Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee was elected.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1776

A letter from Lord Stirling, of the 16th, was presented to Congress, and read.[1]

Resolved, That three members be elected for the committee appointed to consider the propriety of a war office, in the room of three, who are necessarily absent; by reason of sickness.

The members chosen, Mr. [James] Duane, Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee, and Mr. [Thomas] Johnson.

Resolved, That the sum of 3,000 dollars be advanced to Colonel Magaw, for the purpose of purchasing fire arms for his batallion, he to be accountable.

Resolved, That Colonel Magaw be directed to have a pike or spear made, and to lay the same before Congress, with an account of the cost.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the instructions and commission to the commissioners appointed to go to Canada, which being debated by paragraphs, were agreed to, as follows:

INSTRUCTIONS, &C.

GENTLEMEN,

You are, with all convenient despatch, to repair to Canada, and make known to the people of that country, the wishes and intentions of the Congress with respect to them.

Represent to them, that the arms of the United Colonies, having been carried into that province for the purpose of frustrating the

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 162, folio 467.

designs of the British court against our common liberties, we expect not only to defeat the hostile machinations of Governor Carleton against us, but that we shall put it into the power of our Canadian brethren, to pursue such measures for securing their own freedom and happiness, as a generous love of liberty and sound policy shall dictate to them.

Inform them, that in our judgment, their interests and ours are inseparably united; That it is impossible we can be reduced to a servile submission to Great Britain without their sharing our fate: And, on the other hand, if we shall obtain, as we doubt not we shall, a full establishment of our rights, it depends wholly on their choice, whether they will participate with us in those blessings, or still remain subject to every act of tyranny, which British ministers shall please to exercise over them. Urge all such arguments as your prudence shall suggest, to enforce our opinion concerning the mutual interest of the two countries, and to convince them of the impossibility of the war being concluded to the disadvantage of these colonies, if we wisely and vigorously co-operate with each other.

To convince them of the uprightness of our intentions towards them, you are to declare, that it is our inclination, that the people of Canada may set up such a form of government, as will be most likely, in their judgment, to produce their happiness: And you are, in the strongest terms, to assure them, that it is our earnest desire to adopt them into our union, as a sister colony, and to secure the same general system of mild and equal laws for them and for ourselves, with only such local differences as may be agreeable to each colony respectively.

Assure the people of Canada, that we have no apprehension that the French will take any part with Great Britain; but, that it is their interest, and we have reason to believe their inclination, to cultivate a friendly intercourse with these colonies.

You are from this, and such other reasons as may appear most proper, to urge the necessity the people are under of immediately taking some decisive step, to put themselves under the protection of the United Colonies. For expediting such a measure, you are to explain to them our method of collecting the sense of the people, and conducting our affairs regularly by committees of observation and inspection in the several districts, and by conventions and committees of safety in the several colonies. Recommend these modes to them. Explain to them the nature and principles of government among free-

men; developing, in contrast to those, the base, cruel, and insidious designs involved in the late act of parliament, for making a more effectual provision for the government of the province of Quebec. Endeavour to stimulate them by motives of glory, as well as interest, to assume a part in a contest, by which they must be deeply affected; And to aspire to a portion of that power, by which they are ruled; and not to remain the mere spoils and prey of conquerors and lords.

You are further to declare, that we hold sacred the rights of conscience, and may promise to the whole people, solemnly in our name, the free and undisturbed exercise of their religion; and, to the clergy, the full, perfect, and peaceable possession and enjoyment of all their estates; that the government of every thing relating to their religion and clergy, shall be left entirely in the hands of the good people of that province, and such legislature as they shall constitute; Provided, however, that all other denominations of Christians be equally entitled to hold offices, and enjoy civil privileges, and the free exercise of their religion, and be totally exempt from the payment of any tythes or taxes for the support of any religion.

Inform them, that you are vested, by this Congress, with full powers to effect these purposes; and, therefore, press them to have a complete representation of the people assembled in convention, with all possible expedition, to deliberate concerning the establishment of a form of government, and a union with the United Colonies. As to the terms of the union, insist on the propriety of their being similar to those on which the other colonies unite. Should they object to this, report to this Congress those objections, and the terms on which alone they will come into our Union. Should they agree to our terms, you are to promise in the names of the United Colonies, that we will defend and protect the people of Canada against all enemies, in the same manner as we will defend and protect any of the United Colonies.

You are to establish a free press, and to give directions for the frequent publication of such pieces as may be of service to the cause of the United Colonies.

You are to settle all disputes between the Canadians and the continental troops, and to make such regulations relating thereto, as you shall judge proper.

You are to make a strict and impartial enquiry into the cause of the imprisonment of Colonel Du Fee, Lieutenant Colonel Nefeu, Major

St. George Du Pres, and Major Gray, officers of the militia, and of John Frazer, Esq^r late a judge of the police at Montreal, and take such orders concerning them as you shall judge most proper.

In reforming any abuses you may observe in Canada, establishing and enforcing regulations for preservation of peace and good order there, and composing differences between the troops of the United Colonies and the Canadians, all officers and soldiers are required to yield obedience to you; and, to enforce the decisions that you or any two of you may make, you are empowered to suspend any military officer from the exercise of his commission, till the pleasure of the Congress shall be known, if you, or any two of you, shall think it expedient.

You are also empowered to sit and vote as members of councils of war, in directing fortifications and defences to be made, or to be demolished, by land or water; and to draw orders upon the president for any sums of money, not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars in the whole, to defray the expence of the works.

Lastly, you are by all the means you can use, to promote the execution of the resolutions now made, or hereafter to be made, in Congress.[1]

On motion made, *Resolved*, That the following additional Instructions be given to the commissioners aforesaid:

You are empowered and directed to promote and encourage the trade of Canada with the Indian Nations, and to grant passports for carrying it on as far as it may consist with the safety of the troops, and the public good.

You are also directed and authorized to assure the inhabitants of Canada, that their commerce with foreign nations shall, in all respects, be put on an equal footing with, and encouraged and protected in the same manner, as the trade of the United Colonies.

You are also directed to use every wise and prudent measure to introduce and give credit and circulation to the continental money in Canada.

In case the former resolution of Congress respecting the English American troops in Canada, has not been carried into effect, you are

[1] "It will readily be supposed that a great part of these instructions were opposed by our antagonists with great zeal; but they were supported on our side with equal ardor, and the acceptance of them afforded a strong proof of the real determination of a majority of Congress to go with us to the final consummation of our wishes." John Adams, "Autobiography," *Writings*, III, 36.

directed to use your best endeavours to form a batallion of the New York troops in that country, and to appoint the field and other officers out of the gentlemen who have continued there during the campaign, according to their respective ranks and merit. And, if it should be found impracticable, you are to direct such of them as are provided for in the four batallions now raising in New York, to repair to their respective corps. To enable you to carry this resolution into effect, you are furnished with blank commissions, signed by the president.

Resolved, That the memorial from the Indian traders, residing at Montreal, be delivered to the Commissioners going to Canada.

The draught of the commission being taken into consideration, and debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows:

The delegates of the United Colonies of New Hampshire, &c. to Benjamin Franklin, LL. D. member of the royal Academy of sciences at Paris, F. R. S. &c. &c. one of the delegates of the colony of Pennsylvania; Samuel Chase, Esq^{r} one of the delegates of the colony of Maryland, and Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, in the said colony of Maryland, Esq^{r} greeting: Know ye, that we, reposing especial trust and confidence in your zeal, fidelity, abilities, and assiduity, do, by these presents, constitute and appoint you, or any two of you, commissioners for and on behalf of us, and all the people of the United Colonies, whom we represent, to promote, or to form an union between the said colonies and the people of Canada, according to the instructions herewith delivered you, and such as you may hereafter receive; and to execute all such matters and things as you are or shall be directed by your said instructions. And we do require all officers, soldiers, and others, who may facilitate your negotiation, or promote the success thereof, to aid and assist you therein; and you are from time to time, to transmit and report your proceedings to Congress. This commission to continue in force until revoked by this or a future Congress.

Dated at Philadelphia, this day of

By order of the Congress.

Resolved, That Mr. [Benjamin] Franklin, Mr. [John] Adams, and Mr. [Samuel] Chase be appointed to confer with Mr. Wrixon, to examine into his military abilities,

and enquire whether he is willing to engage in the service of the United Colonies, and report to Congress.

Colonel St. Clair having informed Congress that Michael Hufnagel, appointed a first lieutenant, and James O'Hara, and Abel Morris, ensigns in his batallion, declined to accept their commissions, the committee on qualifications recommended Thomas Butler in the room of M[r] Hufnagel, George M'Cullock in the room of James O'Hara, and George Ross in the room of Abel Morris.

Resolved, That they be accepted, and that commissions be granted accordingly.

Resolved, That the committee of safety of the colony of New Jersey be desired to remove the prisoners from Trenton, to such place or places in that colony, as may be thought convenient, at a proper distance from the sea and post roads, subject to the regulations formerly made respecting prisoners.

Resolved, That all officers, prisoners, who shall refuse to subscribe the parole ordered by Congress, be committed to prison.

The committee appointed to procure the making of musquets, &c. to whom part of Colonel Dayton's letter respecting the quality of the arms taken by Colonel Heard, on Long Island, was referred, brought in their report, which was read: Whereupon, the Congress came to the following resolution:

Whereas in the execution of the resolve of Congress of the 14th of March, respecting the disarming disaffected persons, many fire arms may be taken, which may not be fit for use to arm any of the troops mentioned therein: Therefore,

Resolved, That all the fire arms so taken, being appraised according to said resolve, none of them shall be paid for, but those that are fit for the use of such

troops, or that may conveniently be so made, and the remainder shall be safely kept by the said assemblies, conventions, councils or committees of safety, for the owners, to be delivered to them when the Congress shall direct.[1]

Ordered, That the foregoing resolution be published.

The Committee appointed to consider the best ways and means of supplying the army in Canada with provisions and necessaries, brought in their report, which was read:

Resolved, That the same be referred for consideration till to morrow.

A petition of John Secord was presented to Congress and read.

The consideration thereof, at the request of a Colony, was deferred till to Morrow.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Abraham Hunt, for provisions, fire wood, &c. for the prisoners at Trenton, and for horse hire for the public service, the sum of £227.17.3=607.6 dollars:

To Ephraim Blaine, Esq^{r} for necessaries furnished the riffle companies, the sum of £48.13.3=129.7 dollars; of which sum, Captain Hendricks is to be charged £16.12.6 ||=44.3 dollars||. Captain Chambers is to be charged £24.7.6 ||=65 dollars||.

To sundries, on certificates for necessaries furnished to one of the riffle companies, the sum of £45.18.8=122.5 dollars; of which sum £38.0.8 ||=101.4 dollars|| being for riffles, &c. furnished to Captain Cluggage's company, is to be charged to the said company. That the amount of the certificates be paid to Bernard Dougherty, Esq^{r}

To William Bauseman, for provisions, &c. furnished the prisoners in Lancaster, the sum of £573.6.4=1528.8 dollars:

[1] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 27 March, 1776.

To the committee of Frederick, the sum of £19.15.3= 52.7 dollars; and that the same be be paid to Thomas Johnson, Esq:

To Francis Lee, for 483 meals dieting of General Lee's guard, the sum of £18.2.3=48.3 dollars:

To Conrad Ulster, for 185 meals dieting said men, the sum of £7.2.6=19 dollars:

To Mary Bryant, for 288 meals dieting said men, the sum of £10.10=28 dollars:

To Ann Todd, for 158 meals dieting said men, the sum of £5.18.6=15.8 dollars.

Ordered, That the said accounts be paid.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.[1]

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1776

A letter from General Schuyler of the 7, with a return of the forces before Quebec, was ||laid before Congress, and|| read:[2]

[1] "The act of Parliament prohibiting all Trade & Commerce between Great Britain and the Colonies has been lately brought here by a Mr. Temple from London, it makes all American property found on the Sea liable to Seizure & confiscation and I fear it will make the Breach between the two Conntries so wide as never more to be reconciled, we have heard much talk of Commissioners to be sent to treat with us, I do not expect any, the act of Parliament empowers the Navy to appoint Commissioners to receive submissions and grant pardons but no further. Doctor Franklin told me last evening he had a Letter from London dated the 25th December, no Commissioners were then appointed, parliament was prorogued to 25th of January, I see no prospect of a reconciliation, nothing is left now but to fight it out, and for this we are not well provided, having but little ammunition, no Arms no money, nor are we unanimous in our Councils, we do not treat each other with that decency and respect that was observed heretofore, Jealousies, ill natured observations and recriminations take place of reason and Argument, our Tempers are soured, some among us urge strongly for Independency and eternal separation, others wish to wait a little longer and to have the opinion of their Constituents on that subject, you must give us the sentiment of your province when your Convention meets. Several Merchants and others have petitioned the Congress for leave to fit out privatiers to Cruize against British Vessels, it was granted yesterday, the Restrictions are not yet completed or I would have sent you a copy of them." *Joseph Hewes to Samuel Johnston*, Philadelphia, 20 March, 1776.

[2] The letter of Schuyler is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 153, II folio 41.

Resolved, That it be referred to the committee to whom the former letters from the general were committed, viz: Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, and Mr. S[amuel] Adams.

Resolved, That General Washington be directed to send an account of the troops in his camp, who are deficient in arms, to the several assemblies or conventions of the colonies, to which those men belong; and request them to send a sufficient number of arms for the men coming from the respective colonies, and that, if arms cannot be procured, such as have not arms be dismissed the service.

Resolved, That the committee of safety of Pensylvania be requested to employ some trusty persons in each county, to purchase as many good musquets as will be sufficient to arm the batallions raised in said colony; and that they exert their utmost diligence in procuring the said arms speedily, and on the most reasonable terms; that an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of said committee, for the sum of 12,000 dollars to enable them pay for said arms, the committee to be accountable.

Resolved, That the sum of 600 dollars be sent to Colonel Charles Stewart, and that he be desired to muster Captain Woolverton's company, and when he finds them properly armed, accoutred, and ready to march, to furnish them with necessaries, and expedite their march to New York, agreeable to the orders of Congress; he to be accountable for the money put into his hands.

Resolved, That Monsieur le Chevalier de St. Aulaire be permitted to raise an independent company of rangers in Canada, with the pay of a captain, or, in case he shall not be able to raise such a company, that he be recommended to the commanding officer in Canada, to be employed in such service there as may be thought suitable to his genius and ability.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several assemblies, conventions, councils or committees of safety, and committees of correspondence and inspection, that they exert their utmost endeavours to promote the culture of hemp, flax, and cotton, and the growth of wool in these United Colonies.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the said assemblies, conventions, and councils or committees of safety, that they take the earliest measures for erecting and establishing, in each and every colony a society for the improvement of agriculture, arts, manufactures, and commerce, and to maintain a correspondence between such societies, that the rich and numerous natural advantages of this country, for supporting its inhabitants, may not be neglected:

That it be recommended to the said assemblies, conventions, and councils or committees of safety, that they forthwith consider of ways and means of introducing the manufactures of duck and sail cloth, and steel, into such colonies where they are not now understood, and of encouraging, increasing and improving them where they are.[1]

Ordered, That the last three resolutions be published.

Resolved, That a committee ||of three|| be appointed to superintend the printing the Journals of Congress; and, if the present printer cannot execute the work with sufficient expedition, that they be empowered to employ another printer.

The members chosen, Mr. [James] Wilson, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, and Mr. [Andrew] Allen.

Colonel Magaw, agreeable to the order of yesterday, sent to Congress two samples of spears.

[1] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 27 March, 1776. The resolutions were drawn up by John Adams.

||The matters to this day referred, being postponed,||
Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1776

A letter from General Washington of the 13th, enclosing the proceedings of a council of war,

A letter from Lord Stirling, of the 19th, were laid before Congress and read.[1]

A petition from Thorowgood Smith, and others, was presented to Congress, and read, setting forth, that they have procured a vessel, and raised money to fit her out as a privateer, in order to guard and cruize on the coast of Virginia, and praying that a commission be granted to William Shippen, to whom they propose to give the command of said vessel; and that the Congress will grant them a small quantity of powder, upon their making satisfaction for the same:

Resolved, That a commission be granted to William Shippen, as captain of the above mentioned vessel, for the purposes aforesaid.

Resolved, That Captain William Shippen be supplied with three hundred weight of powder by the Secret Committee, he paying for the same.

The committee appointed to prepare a declaration pursuant to certain resolutions, brought in a draught, which was read.

Resolved, That the petition of John Secord be referred to a committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. [John] Penn, Mr. E[dward] Rutledge, and Mr. [John] Jay.

[1]The letter of Washington is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 521. It is printed in *Writings of Washington*, (Ford), III, 467. That of Stirling is in No. 162, folio 481.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

On account of expences in convoying powder, the sum of 8.3 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to John Morton, Esq[r].

To Matthias Slough, for provisions furnished the prisoners in Lancaster, the sum of £85 1 3=226.8 dollars.

To Ephraim Blaine, Esq[r] for sundry articles omitted in the account of expences at the treaty held with the Indians at Fort Pitt, the sum of £33 18 9=90.5 dollars.

To sundries on certificates for necessaries furnished to Captain Stevenson's company in Virginia, the sum of £17 9 6 Virginia currency=58.3 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Timothy Matlack, of which sum, £4 8 0 ||=14.7 dollars,|| being for a riffle, is to be charged to Captain Stevenson.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

Resolved, That the sum of 750 dollars be advanced to the Baron de Woedtke, he to be accountable out of his pay.

Resolved, That the rank of all such officers in the continental army as held similar commissions in that service, before the term of their late appointment expired, be settled by the dates of their former, and not their present commissions.

The Assembly of the counties on Delaware, having recommended a gentleman to be a major in the batallion ordered to be raised in that colony, in the room of John M'Pherson, Jun. Esq[r] who fell before Quebec, and never received his commission, the Congress proceeded to the election, and the ballots being taken and examined,

Thomas M'Donough was elected.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of the committee of safety of the colony of the Three lower counties on Delaware, for the sum of 12,000

dollars, for the use of the batallion raised in that colony, the said committee to be accountable.

The Congress took into consideration the declaration brought in by the Committee, and after debate, the further consideration thereof, was at the request of a colony, postponed till to morrow.

Ordered, That the secretary publish the substance of the letters received from the Camp at Cambridge.

Resolved, That the marine committee be empowered to dispose of the coal on board the *Blue Mountain Valley*, in such manner as they shall judge most for the benefit of the United Colonies.

||The matters to this day referred, being postponed,||

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1776

A letter from James Young was presented to Congress and read, requesting that his son John, who eloped from him last January, and got on board the *Phœnix* ship of war, but is now fortunately a prisoner in New York, may be permitted, on his parole, to reside at the estate of his late grandfather, Dr. Græme, about 20 miles from Philadelphia.[1]

Resolved, That Mr. Young's request be granted.

A letter from Lord Stirling, of the 18th, enclosing a letter from William De Hart, and a letter from the captains and subalterns of the first New Jersey batallions: also,[2]

A Memorial from Thomas Scott, of Hunterdon, desiring that he be appointed a captain of a company of rangers: and,

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XXIV, 651.

[2] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 162, folio 471.

A letter from S. Badlam, of 16th were ||laid before Congress, and|| read:

Resolved, That the foregoing letters be referred to the Committee on Qualifications.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of Thomas Lowry, commissary, for the sum of 30,000 dollars, for the use of the New Jersey batallions, he to be accountable.

Resolved, That the sum of 2,700 dollars be advanced to Mr. T[homas] M^c^Kean, he to get the same exchanged into specie, and pay the same into the treasury.

The Committee on Qualifications having recommended Peter Scull to be a brigade Major in the Army of the United Colonies in the middle department:

Joseph Davenport to be appointed a captain, in the third Pensylvania batallion, in the room of Mr. Scull;

Evan Edwards, a captain in said batallion, in the room of Mr. Allice, who has resigned;

William Tilton, a first lieutenant in said batallion, in the room of Evan Edwards;

Garret Steddiford, an ensign in the said batallion;

And having also recommended the following persons for Colonel Irvine's batallion, viz:

Robert Wilson to be a first lieutenant, in the room of William M'Cleland resigned;

John Alexander, a first lieutenant, in the room of Robert White resigned.

Andrew Irvine, a second lieutenant, in the room of John Alexander:

[William] Neeper, an ensign in the room of John Murray, who has resigned:

Resolved, That commissions be granted to them accordingly.

Resolved, That the sum of £1200 in gold ||=3,200 dol-

lars,|| be advanced to Mr. Cole, to be by him delivered to the commanding officer in Canada, for the Service of the Continent, and that he be directed to proceed immediately.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Dr. Jonathan Potts, for attendance on the second and fourth Pensylvania batallions, the sum of £25.6.9 = 67.6 dollars.

To Colonel Nathaniel Heard, for expences in the expedition against the tories on Long Island, the sum of £864.12.10 New York currency = 2,161.6 dollars.

Resolved, That the above be paid.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the declaration, which was agreed to as follows:

Whereas the petitions of the United Colonies to the King, for the redress of great and manifest grievances, have not only been rejected, but treated with scorn and contempt, and the opposition to designs evidently formed to reduce them to a state of servile subjection, and their necessary defence against hostile forces actually employed to subdue them, declared rebellion; And whereas an unjust war hath been commenced against them, which the commanders of the British fleets and armies have prosecuted, and still continue to prosecute, with their utmost vigour, and in a cruel manner; wasting, spoiling, and destroying the country, burning houses and defenceless towns, and exposing the helpless inhabitants to every misery, from the inclemency of the winter; and not only urging savages to invade the country, but instigating negroes to murder their masters; And whereas the parliament of Great Britain hath lately passed an Act, affirming these colonies to be in open rebellion, forbidding all trade and commerce with the inhabitants thereof, until they shall accept pardons, and submit to despotic rule, declaring their property, wherever found upon the water,

liable to seizure and confiscation; and enacting, that what had been done there by virtue of the royal authority, were just and lawful acts, and shall be so deemed; from all which it is manifest, that the iniquitous scheme, concerted to deprive them of the liberty they have a right to by the laws of nature and the English constitution, will be pertinaciously pursued. It being therefore necessary to provide for their defence and security, and justifiable to make reprisals upon their enemies, and otherwise to annoy them, according to the laws and usages of Nations, the Congress, trusting that such of their friends in Great Britain (of whom it is confessed there are many entitled to applause and gratitude for their patriotism and benevolence, and in whose favour a discrimination of property cannot be made) as shall suffer by captures, will impute it to the authors of our common calamities, Do Declare and Resolve, as followeth, to wit:[1]

Resolved, That the inhabitants of these colonies be permitted to fit out armed vessels to cruize on the enemies of these United Colonies.

Resolved, That all ships and other vessels, their tackle, apparel, and furniture, and all goods, wares, and merchandizes, belonging to any inhabitant or inhabitants of

[1] In the Franklin Papers, in the Library of Congress (folio 291), is an undated paper, endorsed "Introduction as proposed to a Congress Resolution," which was evidently intended to serve as a preamble to these resolutions. It is not in the writing of Franklin.

"Whereas the british Nation, through great Corruption of Manners, and extream Dissipation and Profusion both private and publick, have found all honest Resources insufficient to supply their excessive Luxury and Prodigality, and thereby have been driven to the practice of every Injustice which Avarice could dictate or rapacity execute, and wheras, not satisfied with the immence plunder of the East, obtained by sacrificing Millions of the human Species, they have lately turned their Eyes to the West, and grudging us the peaceable enjoyment of the Fruits of our hard Labour and virtuous Industry, have for Years past been endeavouring to extort the same from us under Colour of Laws regulating trade; and have thereby actually succeeded in draining us of large sums to our great Loss and detriment, and wheras impatient

Great Britain, taken on the high seas, or between high and low water mark, by any armed vessel, fitted out by any private person or persons, and to whom commissions shall be granted, and being libelled and prosecuted in any court erected for the trial of maritime affairs, in any of these colonies, shall be deemed and adjudged to be lawful prize; and after deducting and paying the wages of the seamen and mariners on board of such captures, as are merchant ships and vessels, shall be entitled to, according to the terms of their contracts, until the time of the adjudication, shall be condemned to and for the use of the owner or owners, and the officers, marines, and mariners of such armed vessel, according to such rules and proportions as they shall agree on: Provided always, that this resolution shall not extend to any vessel bringing settlers arms, ammunition or warlike stores to and for the use of these colonies, or any of the inhabitants thereof, who are friends to the American cause, or to such warlike stores, or to the effects of such settlers.

Resolved, That all ships or vessels, with their tackle, apparel, and furniture, goods, wares, and merchandizes, belonging to any inhabitant of Great Britain as aforesaid, which shall be taken by any of the vessels of war of these United Colonies, shall be deemed forfeited; one third,

to seize the whole they have at length proceeded to open Robbery, declaring by a solemn Act of Parliament that all our Estates are theirs and all our Property found upon the Sea divisible among such of their armed plunderers as shall take the same; and have even dared in the same Act to declare that all the the Spoilings, Thefts, burnings of Houses and Towns, and murders of innocent People perpetrated by their wicked and inhuman Corsairs on our Coasts, previous to any War declared against us were just Actions, and shall be so deemed, contrary to several of the Commandments of God, which by this Act they presume to repeal, and to all the Principles of Right and all the Ideas of Justice entertained heretofore by every other Nation Savage as well as Civilized thereby manifesting themselves to be *hostes humani generis:* And whereas it is not possible for the People of America to subsist under such continual Ravages without making some Reprisals; therefore

"*Resolved,*"

after deducting and paying the wages of seamen and mariners as aforesaid, to the officers and men on board, and two thirds to the use of the United Colonies.

Resolved, That all ships or vessels, with their tackle, apparel, and furniture, goods, wares, and merchandises, belonging to any inhabitants of Great Britain as aforesaid, which shall be taken by any vessel of war fitted out by and at the expence of any of the United Colonies, shall be deemed forfeited, and divided, after deducting and paying the wages of seamen and mariners, as aforesaid, in such manner and proportions as the assembly or convention of such colony shall direct.

Resolved, That all vessels, with their tackle, apparel, and furniture, and cargoes, belonging to the inhabitants of Great Britain, as aforesaid, and all vessels which may be employed in carrying supplies to the ministerial armies, which shall happen to be taken near the shores of any of these colonies, by the people of the country, or detachments from the army, shall be deemed lawful prize; and the court of admiralty within the said colony is required, on condemnation thereof, to adjudge that all charges and expences which may attend the capture and trial, be first paid out of the monies arising from the sales of the prize, and the remainder equally divided among all those, who shall have been actually engaged and employed in taking the said prize. Provided, that where any detachments of the army shall have been employed as aforesaid, their part of the prize money shall be distributed among them in proportion to the pay of the officers and soldiers so employed.[1]

Ordered, That the foregoing resolution be published.[2]

[1] "You are desirous of knowing what capital measures are proposed in Congress. I refer you to Colonel Orne for what is done concerning privateering, and I hope soon that all your ports will be open, and a free trade allowed with all nations." *Elbridge Gerry to James Warren*, 26 March, 1776.

[2] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 27 March, 1776.

Resolved, That a committee of 5 be appointed to consider of the fortifying one or more ports on the American coast, in the strongest manner, for the protection of our cruizers, and the reception of their prizes; that they take the opinion of the best engineers on the manner and expence, and report thereon to the Congress.[1]

The members chosen, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, Mr. R[obert] Morris, and Mr. [William] Whipple.

Resolved, That the commissioners appointed to go to Canada, or any two of them, be empowered, if they think it necessary for the service of the United Colonies, to raise a number of independent companies, not exceeding six, and to appoint the officers; that they also be empowered to fill up all vacancies that may happen in the Army of the United Colonies in Canada, while they are there.

Resolved, That four hundred pounds ||=1,066 2/3 dollars,|| in continental money, over and above the £600 ||=1600 dollars|| to be paid them in specie, be advanced to the commissioners going to Canada, to defray their expences, they to render an account.

Resolved, That fifty half johannes, equal to 400 dollars, [in specie,] be paid to Mr. Walker in full for so much by him lent to General Wooster, for the use of the army in Canada, and that General Wooster's note be taken up and cancelled.

Resolved, That this Congress will, on Monday next, resolve itself in a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the trade of the United Colonies; and that sundries motions offered by the members from Massachusetts bay, Maryland, and Virginia, be referred to said committee.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Monday.

[1] Against this paragraph is written the word "secret."

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1776

A letter from General Washington of the 19, was presented to Congress, and read, informing that on the 17, the enemy had evacuated Boston, and our troops took possession of it:

A letter from General Schuyler of the 12:

A letter from Lord Stirling of 21 March;

A letter from the committee of safety of New Jersey.[1]

Resolved, That the thanks of this Congress, in their own name, and in the name of the thirteen United Colonies, whom they represent, be presented to his excellency General Washington, and the officers and soldiers under his command, for their wise and spirited conduct in the siege and acquisition of Boston; and that a medal of gold be struck in commemoration of this great event, and presented to his Excellency; and that a committee of three be appointed to prepare a letter of thanks, and a proper device for the medal.[2]

The members chosen, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. [John] Jay, and Mr. [Stephen] Hopkins.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to confer with Mr. Dugan, and Colonel Ritzema.

The members chosen, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. [Thomas] Johnson, and Mr. [Andrew] Allen.

Resolved, That 20,000 dollars be advanced to the delegates of Virginia, for the use of the batallions in Virginia; the said delegates to account for the expenditure thereof.

[1] The letter of Washington, unsigned, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, 537. It is printed in *Writings of Washington* (Ford), III, 475. That of Schuyler is in No. 153, II, folio 47. That of Stirling is in No. 162, folio 485. That of the Committee of Safety of New Jersey, dated March 23, is in No. 68, folio 113.

[2] "The next morning after the arrival of the news, I did myself the honor to move for the thanks of Congress to your Excellency, and that a medal of gold should be struck in commemoration of it." *John Adams to Washington*, 1 April, 1776.

For Du Simitière's design for the medal, see *John Adams to his wife*, 14 August, 1776.

The committee appointed to take into consideration the state of the colonies in the southern department, brought in their report, which was read as follows:

That it appears highly probable that a very considerable force will be exerted in that department by our enemies early this spring; that the continental forces employed in South Carolina, and Virginia, respectively, cannot prudently be solely relied on, for the defence of those colonies; that notwithstanding South Carolina and Virginia are at a very great separate expence in armed vessels, rendered absolutely necessary by the situation and circumstances of those countries; the militia of South Carolina are obliged to perform a very laborious duty, which, from the smallness of their number, and the consequent quick rotation, is excessively burthensome; and that the colony of Virginia, in addition to the six continental batallions already there, have resolved to raise, and are now embodying, three other batallions: Whereupon, the Congress came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the convention or council of safety of South Carolina be permitted to raise and embody two other batallions, and that they be on the pay and at the expence of the continent, as soon as they shall be armed fit for service, and accordingly mustered:

That the three colonial batallions of Virginia be also on the pay and at the expence of the continent, as soon as they shall be armed fit for service, and accordingly mustered:

The committee aforesaid farther reported, that the council of safety of Virginia hath contracted for the subsistence of the third batallion in that colony, at $6\frac{1}{2}$ pence per ration; the fifth at 8 pence, the second, fourth, seventh, eighth, and ninth, at $7\frac{1}{2}$ pence per ration; Whereupon,

Resolved, That those contracts be confirmed.

Resolved, That a deputy muster master general be appointed for the southern department.

The ballots being taken ||and examined,||

Mr. Edmund Randolph, was elected.

Resolved, That Mr. E. Randolph, be empowered to appoint two deputy muster masters under him, one for North Carolina, and the other for South Carolina and Georgia.

Resolved, That the order of the day be postponed till to Morrow.

The Congress then took into consideration the report of the committee on the ways and means of supplying the troops in Canada with provisions and necessaries: Whereupon,

Resolved, That General Schuyler be directed to take such orders respecting the supplies of provisions necessary for the troops in Canada, as he may deem expedient.

The Congress, being of opinion that the reduction of Quebec, and the general security of the province of Canada, are objects of great concern,

Resolved, That General Washington be directed to detach four batallions into Canada, from the army under his command, as soon as he shall be of opinion that the safety of New York and the eastern service will permit.[1]

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1776

The Congress being informed that Mr. [Samuel] Ward, one of the delegates of Rhode Island, yesterday, departed this life,

Resolved, That this Congress will, in a body, attend the

[1] "I this day moved in Congress and succeeded, to send an order for four batallions to be detached for Canada from Gen. Washington's Army." *Richard Henry Lee to Charles Lee*, 25 March, 1776.

funeral of Mr. Ward, to Morrow, with a crape round the arm, and that the Congress continue in mourning for the space of one month.

Resolved, That Mr. [Stephen] Hopkins, Mr. S[amuel] Adams, and Mr. [Oliver] Wolcott, be a committee to superintend the funeral, and that they be directed to apply to the Rev. Mr. [Samuel] Stillman, and request him to preach a funeral sermon on the occasion:

That the said committee be directed to invite the assembly the council of safety ||of Pennsylvania||, and other public bodies in Philadelphia, to attend the funeral.[1]

Resolved, That the privates of the companies ordered from Maryland to Accomac and Northampton, in the southern department, be allowed the pay of the privates in that department, which is 6 2-3 dollars ||per calendar month.||

Resolved, That if the convention or council of safety in North Carolina shall judge it necessary for the common safety to raise one or two more batallions, the same, when armed fit for service and mustered, be taken into the pay of the continent.

Resolved, That an order be sent to Commodore Douglass, immediately to repair to the lakes, and take command of the vessels on that station.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Thursday.

[1] "Died, yesterday morning, the Honorable Samuel Ward, Esq., late member of the Continental Congress; his remains will be interred this afternoon, in the Baptist Church.

"The procession will begin at 3 o'clock, this afternoon, at Mrs. House's, in Lodge alley, where the friends of the deceased are desired to attend. The body will be carried to Arch Street Church, where a sermon on the occasion, will be delivered by the Rev. Mr. Stillman. The ladies will be admitted into the galleries at 3 o'clock." *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 27 March, 1776.

"His funeral was attended with the same solemnities as Mr. Randolph's. Mr. Stillman being the Anabaptist minister here, of which persuasion was the Governor, was desired by Congress to preach a sermon, which he did with great applause." *John Adams to his wife*, 29 March, 1776.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1776

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of Mr. William Barrel, of Philadelphia, for the sum of £7,500 Pensylvania currency = 20,000 dollars, in full for tent cloth sent by him to Colonel Mifflin, for the use of the army under the command of General Washington; the money being paid in consequence of the General's letter of the 13th; and to be charged to the account of the General.

Resolved, That the Marine Committee be empowered to purchase, on the most reasonable terms, for the use of the continent, the ship *Molly*, and to fit her out, with all possible expedition, to join Captain Barry, on his cruize along the coast, between New York and Virginia.

A memorial of Mr. Thomas Walker ||of Canada|| was presented to Congress, and read:

Ordered, To lie on the table.

Two letters, from Mr. Tucker, of the 27th, ||from the committee of safety of New Jersey,|| were read:[1]

Resolved, That the president return an answer, and inform Mr. Tucker ||the committee of safety of New Jersey,|| that the Congress see no reason to alter or countermand the requisition of the 15th, and that, therefore, the committee of safety is requested to expedite the march of the troops to New York, agreeable to the requisition of the commanding officer.

The Congress proceeded to the election of a colonel of the third batallion ordered to be raised in the colony of New York; and, the ballots being taken,

Rudolphus Ritzema, Esq^{r}, was elected.

The committee appointed to confer with Colonel Ritzema and Mr. Dugan, brought in their report, which was read.

[1] These letters are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 68, folios 117, 121.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers for 1,000 dollars in favour of Mr. [Jeremiah] Dugan, as a reward for his services in Canada.

Resolved, That Mr. Jeremiah Dugan be appointed a major, with the rank of a lieutenant colonel, to command a body of three hundred rangers.

That the said rangers be divided into three companies, each to consist of one hundred men, and to be commanded by a captain and two lieutenants: That the captains and lieutenants be recommended by Lieutenant Colonel Dugan to the Commissioners going to Canada for their approbation; and that, if they approve the Gentlemen recommended, they grant ||them|| commissions.

Resolved, That Mr. William Finney be appointed a deputy quarter master in the southern department.

Resolved, That two engineers be employed for the southern department.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of Mr. [James] Mease, Commissary, for the sum of 20,000 dollars for the use of the Pensylvania battallions, he to be accountable.

Information being given to Congress that some prisoners in the gaol of this city have meditated an escape, and are near carrying their plan into execution:

Resolved, That the gaoler be directed to confine John Connolly, J. Smith, and [Moses] Kirkland, in separate apartments, and suffer no person to converse with any of them, without special orders of Congress.

Resolved, That the sheriff of the city and county of Philadelphia be directed, by Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, to call to his assistance a guard of fifty men from the barracks of this city for the defence of the gaol; and that the sheriff be farther directed to keep secret any intimation given him of a design to rescue his prisoners, and

employ every means to discover and apprehend those concerned in such design.

Resolved, That an order for 1,000 dollars be drawn on the treasurers in favour of Mr. S[amuel] Fairlamb, for the use of the fourth Pensylvania batallion, he to be accountable.

The order of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1776

Two Letters from General Schuyler, of 19 and 21, with sundry papers enclosed among which a copy of the Treaty held with the Indians ||at Albany, &c.||

Also a letter from the convention of New York, of the 26th: and

A letter from Allan M'Donald [Mac Donell] being received, were read.[1]

Resolved, That the last letter from Allan M'Donald be referred to the Committee on Prisoners.

That the other letters, with the papers enclosed, be referred to Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, and Mr. S[amuel] Adams.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to deliver to Mr. William Henry and Co. 15 lbs. of powder, to prove the musquets he has contracted to make for the Continent.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on the means of supplying the troops in Canada: Whereupon,

Resolved, That a deputy commissary general of stores

[1]The letters from Schuyler are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 153, II, folios 57, 67. That of the Convention of New York is in No. 67, I, folio 198. That of Allan Mac Donell is in No. 78, VII, folio 27.

and provisions be appointed for the army of the United Colonies in Canada.

The ballots being taken and examined,

Mr. [J.] Price was elected.

Resolved, That the last paragraph of the report be recommitted, and that the Committee be empowered to confer with such persons as they judge proper on the subject, and report to Congress, as soon as conveniently they can.

~~The order of the day being renewed,~~

A letter from the committee of safety of New Jersey, and a letter from Mr. John Macpherson, were [received, and] read.[1]

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1776

Resolved, That Sixty Dollars be advanced to Mons[r] Arundel, to be deducted out of his pay, and that he be directed immediately to repair to the southern department, and put himself under the direction of General Lee.

Resolved, That Monsieur Dechambault, and his companion, be permitted to come to Philadelphia and transact some private business, and then return to Bristol.

The Congress proceeded to the election of two Engineers for the southern department; and, the ballots being taken,

John Stadler and Monsieur Massenbach were elected.

The Congress took into consideration the letter from the committee of safety of New Jersey: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the minute men employed by Congress under the command of Colonel Heard, in the expedition

[1] The letter from John McPherson, dated March 29, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XV, folio 29. That of the Committee of Safety of New Jersey is in No. 68, folio 125.

to Long Island, be paid as Continental troops, agreeable to the pay and rations allowed in the middle department.

Resolved, That the delegates of New York be a committee to prepare an answer to the letter from the committee of safety of New Jersey, and assign the reasons of the foregoing resolve.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To William Tricket, for stationary, for the public service the sum of £15. 13. 0=41.7 dollars:

To Philip Apricht for provisions for General Lee's guard, the sum of £1. 15. 3 equal to 4.7 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Adam Kimmel:

To sundries, on several certificates for necessaries furnished to the riffle companies, the sum of £16. 11. 9=44.2 dollars; and that the same ought to be paid to Matthias Slough, Esq^{r}, and that 18/6, [=2.5 dollars] part of the said sum, be charged to Captain Cressap's company.

To sundries on certificates for riffles, shirts, &c. furnished to Captain Cluggage's company, the sum of £30. 8. 5 =81.1 dollars, which ought to be paid to John Montgomery, Esq^{r} and charged to the said company.

To Robert Erwin, waggon master, on an account now settled, the sum of £153 10 1=409.3 dollars.

To Sacheverel Wood, for provisions furnished by him to several prisoners now in the gaol of this city, the sum of £51 11 9=137.6 dollars:

To Thomas Dewees, for provisions for Connolly, Cameron, Smith, and Kirkland, the sum of £21. 13. 9=57.8 dollars.

Resolved, That the above be paid.

The committee appointed to confer with Major Wrixon, brought in their report, ||which was read:||

Resolved, That each regimental surgeon be allowed a mate:

Resolved, That the pay of a surgeon's mate be 18 dollars per month.

Resolved, That ||suitable chirurgical|| instruments be purchased with each medicine chest.

Resolved, That each Brigadier General, when on command, be empowered to appoint a brigade Major.

~~Resolved, That the quantity and value of the instruments be postponed to Monday next.~~

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Monday.

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 1776

Resolved, That Captain D. Arundel be allowed $48^{1}/_{2}$ dollars, in full for pay and subsistence of a captain from the 8 of February, the time he was recommended to General Schuyler, to the 19 of March, when he received his commission.

Resolved, That Mr. Mease, Commissary be directed to advance Captain Romans one month's pay for himself and the officers and men of his company, and also subsistence money to Albany.

The committee to whom the application of Captain White Eyes was referred, brought in their report, which was read:

Resolved, That the same be referred for consideration till to morrow.

The Congress having, on the 17th of February last, appointed a standing committee for superintending the treasury, with power, among other things, to employ and instruct proper persons for liquidating the public accounts; and the said resolution not being sufficiently explicit, with respect to the manner and place of settling those accounts, and nothing being of greater consequence, than that the publick accounts should be regularly stated and kept, and justly liquidated and settled;

Resolved, therefore, That a treasury office of accounts shall be instituted and established, and that such office shall be kept in the city or place, where Congress shall, from time to time, be assembled and hold their sessions:

That the said office of accounts shall be under the direction and superintendence of the standing committee for the treasury:

That an auditor general, and a competent number of assistants or clerks, shall be appointed by Congress, and employed, for stating, arranging, and keeping the public accounts:

That all accounts and claims against the United Colonies, for services or supplies, where the rates or prices have not been ascertained by Congress, shall be presented to the Committee of Claims, liquidated by them, and reported to and allowed by Congress, previous to their being passed and entered at the treasury office; that all other accounts and claims, consisting of articles, the price or value of which shall have previously been fixed by contract, or otherwise ascertained by Congress, shall be liquidated and settled at the treasury office, and reported for the allowance of Congress, by the committee for superintending the treasury, and then passed and entered at the treasury office.

That all contracts, securities, and obligations, for the use and benefit of the United Colonies, shall be lodged and kept in the treasury office of accounts; and that all persons to whom public monies have been or shall be advanced or paid, shall be charged with the same in the books of the said office, for which purpose every warrant on the treasury, which shall issue after the said office shall be opened, shall, previous to its being paid, be entered at the treasury office, and the entry certified on the warrant, by one of the committee of the treasury, the auditor general, or one of his assistants or clerks; pro-

vided, however, that all orders or warrants issued by committees appointed and authorized by Congress to draw on the treasurers for particular purposes, shall be paid and charged to the account of the said committees respectively, until they shall settle and have their accounts passed by Congress, when the debits against them shall be discharged in the treasury office, by such credits as Congress shall agree to and allow:

That all assemblies, conventions, councils, and committees of safety, commissaries, pay masters, and others, entrusted with public monies, shall, within a reasonable time, after being called upon for that purpose by the committee of the treasury, produce their accounts and vouchers at the treasury office, in order to their being settled and adjusted in the manner before directed:

That the committee for superintending the treasury shall be authorized to apply to the commanding officers and others, in the continental service, for such materials and information, as the committee may judge to be useful, for stating, explaining, or checking the public accounts, in order to their being fairly and justly settled:

That the auditor general and his assistants or clerks, before entering upon their offices, shall, respectively, take an oath, to be administered by one or more of the committee of the treasury office (a certificate whereof shall be filed in the treasury office) well and faithfully to execute the trust reposed in them, as auditor, assistant, or clerk, (as the case may be,) of the office of accounts, established by Congress, according to the best of their skill and judgment, and to disclose no matter, the knowledge of which shall be acquired in consequence of such their office, which they shall be directed to keep secret:

That the committee for superintending the treasury shall be authorized to hire suitable places, and procure books of accounts and other necessaries at the public

expence, for the establishing and doing the business of the said office.

Resolved, That Major James Hewes, a prisoner at Elizabethtown, be allowed and ordered to come to Philadelphia for the benefit of his health, and there wait on the Committee for Prisoners, and take their directions with respect to the place of his future residence.

Resolved, That Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean and Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine be directed to examine the gaol [of Philadelphia,] and particularly the apartments where Kirkland, Connolly, Smith and Cameron are confined, and report what is necessary to be done to have them safely and securely kept.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to confer with Mr. [James] M'Knight, and examine into his account, and the nature of his claim, and report thereon to Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. R[obert] Morris, Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, and Mr. [John] De Hart.

The Committee on Qualifications having recommended Jacob Kemper, Junr to be appointed an Ensign in Captain Howell's company in the first New Jersey battalion, in the room of Cyprus De Hart, who has resigned,

Resolved, That he be appointed, and that a commission be granted to him accordingly.

Resolved, That the president, in the first letter he writes to General Schuyler, desire him to send an account of the lead at Ticonderoga.

A letter from Alexander M'Donald, George Gillespie, and J. [T] W. Sanders, of the 12 of March, was presented to Congress ||and read||:[1]

Resolved, That it be referred to Mr. R[obert] Morris, Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, and Mr. [John] De Hart.

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XV, folio 19.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1776

~~A petition from Daniel Duchemin, praying for a lieutenantcy in the company of Captain D. Arundel, being presented to Congress and referred to the delegates of Virginia, the said delegates brought in their report which was read: Agreed to as follows:~~

~~Resolved that the same be recommitted.~~[1]

~~That Daniel Duchemin be appointed a lieutenant of the artillery company to be raised in Virginia in consideration of the scarcity of artillery officers in that colony; and that two months pay be advanced to him to carry him to Virginia.~~

A letter from General Washington, of the 24 March, with 5 papers enclosed, was laid before Congress and read.[2]

The committee appointed to prepare the form of a commission, and instructions to commanders of private ships of war, brought in the same, which were read.

The commission, being agreed to, is as follows:

COMMISSION

The delegates of the United Colonies of New Hampshire, &c. to all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting: Know ye, that we have granted, and, by these presents, do grant license and authority to mariner, commander of the called of the burthen of tons, or thereabouts, belonging to of in the colony of mounting carriage guns, and navigated by men, to fit

[1] Action appears to have been taken upon this report, but it was set aside, and the matter recommitted.

[2] This letter with enclosures, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 541. It is printed in the *Writings of Washington*, (Ford), III, 487.

out and set forth the said in a warlike manner, and by and with the said and the crew thereof, by force of arms, to attack, seize and take the ships and other vessels belonging to the inhabitants of Great Britain, or any of them, with their tackle, apparel, furniture, and ladings, on the high seas, or between high water and low water marks, and to bring the same to some convenient ports in the said colonies, in order that the courts which are or shall be there appointed to hear and determine causes, civil and maritime, may proceed, in due form, to condemn the said captures, if they be adjudged lawful prize; the said having given bond, with sufficient sureties, that nothing be done by the said or any of the officers, mariners, or company thereof, contrary to, or inconsistent with the usages and customs of nations, and the instructions, a copy of which is herewith delivered to him. And we will and require all our officers whatsoever to give succour and assistance to the said in the premises. This commission shall continue in force until the Congress shall issue orders to the contrary.

By order of the Congress.

Attest, *President.*

The Congress then took into consideration the draught of instructions; and, after some time spent thereon,

Resolved, That it be recommitted, and that it be an instruction to the committee, to fill up the blanks in said instructions as they shall think best.

The committee appointed to prepare a letter of thanks to General Washington, and the troops under his command, brought in a draught, which being read, was agreed to:

Ordered, That it be transcribed, signed by the president, and forwarded.

PHILADELPHIA, *April 2d, 1776.*

SIR,

It gives me the most sensible Pleasure to convey to you, by Order of Congress the only Tribute, which a free People will ever consent to Pay; the Tribute of Thanks and Gratitude to their Friends and Benefactors.

The disinterested and patriotic Principles which led you to the Field, have also led you to Glory: and it affords no little Consolation

to your Countrymen to reflect, that, as a peculiar Greatness of Mind induced you to decline any Compensation for serving them, except the Pleasure of promoting their Happiness, they may, without your Permission, bestow upon you the largest Share of their Affections and Esteem.

Those Pages in the Annals of America, will record your Title to a conspicuous Place in the Temple of Fame, which shall inform Posterity, that under your Directions, an undisciplined Band of Husbandmen, in the Course of a few Months, became Soldiers; and that the Desolation meditated against the Country, by a brave Army of Veterans, commanded by the most experienced Generals, but employ'd by bad Men in the worst of Causes, was, by the Fortitude of your Troops, and the Address of their officers, next to the kind Interposition of Providence, confined for near a Year, within such narrow Limits, as scarcely to admit more Room than was necessary for the Encampments and Fortifications, they lately abandoned.

Accept, therefore, Sir, the Thanks of the United Colonies, unanimously declared by their Delegates, to be due to you, and the brave Officers and Troops under your Command; and be pleased to communicate to them, this distinguished Mark of the Approbation of their Country.

The Congress have ordered a Golden Medal, adapted to the Occasion, to be struck, and when finished, to be presented to you.

I have the Honour to be, with every Sentiment of Esteem, Sir,

Your most obedt and very hble Ser^{t}

JOHN HANCOCK, *Presid^{t}* [1]

The committee on prisoners, to whom the letter from M. Belestre, of the 16 of March last, was referred, brought in their report, which being read was agreed to as follows:

That M. Belestre, have the sum of three thousand and four hundred dollars advanced to him by the treasurers of the United Colonies, on his delivering to them his bills of exchange for the like sum, to be paid in gold or silver in the province of Canada.

A petition of William Lindsay being presented ||to Congress and read,||

[1] From the original in the *Letters to Washington*, VIII, folio 283.

Resolved, That Colonel Wayne be directed to discharge Robert, the son of said William Lindsay, who is inlisted in his batallion.

||The matters to this day referred, being postponed,||[1]

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1776

Resolved, That the letter of General Washington, of the 24th of March, with the papers enclosed, be referred to a committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. [Thomas] Johnson, Mr. [John] Jay, and Mr. [James] Wilson.

A memorial and petition of Captain John Nelson was presented to Congress and read; ~~Whereupon,~~

~~Resolved, That the sum of 1000 dollars be advanced to Captain Nelson, for the use of his company, he to be accountable.~~

A petition from P. Moore, in behalf of the owners of the sloops *Congress* and *Chance*, privateers, for 400 lb. of powder ~~may be lent to them,~~ ||was presented and read:||

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be empowered to sell them the quantity.

The Committee of Claims reported, ||to whom the account of Messrs. Price and Haywood was referred, brought in their report: Whereupon,||

Resolved, That there be advanced to Messrs. Price and Haywood, the sum of sixty four thousand, three hundred

[1] In the *Pennsylvania Archives*, First Series, IV, 729, is a resolution of Congress which is not entered on the Journals. Some intelligence concerning Samuel Sample, of Pittsburg, was accompanied by the following:

"In Congress, April 2, 1776.

"*Resolved*, that the enclosed be delivered by Mr. [James] Wilson to the Com^ee^ of Safety of Pennsylvania, and request them to take such steps as they think best for the public Service."

and fifty eight dollars, and six tenths of a dollar on account of supplies to the army in Canada, to be accounted for on settlement of their accounts; and that General Wooster be directed to forward the accounts and vouchers lodged in his hands.

That there is due, to the township of Montague, in the county of Sussex, New Jersey, for slay hire, in forwarding prisoners from Canada, under the direction of A. E. Brasher, the sum of 45 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Nicholas Christopher.

Ordered, That the above be paid.

A letter from H[enry] Fisher, of Lewistown, to the committee of safety of Pensylvania, together with a resolve of said committee, being laid before Congress was read:[1]

Resolved, That the commander of the batallion raised in Delaware government, be directed to send two companies of said batallion to Lewistown, there to remain in the service of the continent till farther orders.

Resolved, That the Marine Committee be directed and empowered to fit out, with all expedition, two armed cutters, for the service of the continent.

Resolved, That Blank commissions for private ships of war and letters of marque and reprisal, signed by the president, be sent to the general assemblies, conventions, and councils or committees of safety of the United Colonies, to be by them filled up and delivered to the persons intending to fit out such private ships of war, for making captures of British vessels and cargoes, who shall apply for the same, and execute the bonds which shall be sent with the said commissions, which bonds shall be returned to the Congress.

[1]This letter and resolution are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 69, I, folio 113.

Resolved, That every person intending to set forth and fit out a private ship or vessel of war, and applying for a commission or letters of marque and reprisal for that purpose, shall produce a writing subscribed by him, containing the name and tonnage or burthen of the ship or vessel, the number of her guns, with their weight of metal, the name and place of residence of the owner or owners, the names of the commander and other officers, the number of the crew, and the quantity of provisions and warlike stores; which writing shall be delivered to the secretary of Congress, or to the clerk of the house of representatives, convention, or council, or committee of safety of the colony in which the ship or vessel shall be, to be transmitted to the said secretary, and shall be registered by him; and that the commander of the ship or vessel, before the commission or letters of marque and reprisal may be granted, shall, together with sufficient sureties, seal and deliver a bond, in the penalty of five thousand dollars, if the vessel be of one hundred tons or under, or ten thousand dollars, if of a greater burthen, payable to the president of the Congress, in trust for the use of the United Colonies, with condition in the form following, to wit:

"The condition of this obligation is such, That if the above-bounden , who is Commander of the , called , belonging to , of , in the colony of , mounting carriage Guns, and navigated by Men, and who hath applied for a Commission, or Letters of Marque and Reprisal, to arm, equip, and set forth to Sea, the said as a private Ship of War, and to make Captures of British Vessels and Cargoes, shall not exceed or transgress the Powers and Authorities which shall be contained in the said Commission, but shall, in all Things, observe and conduct himself, and govern his Crew, by and according to the same, and certain Instructions therewith to be delivered, and such other Instructions as may hereafter be given to him; and shall make Reparation for all Damages sustained by any Misconduct or unwarrantable Proceedings of Himself, or the Officers or Crew

of the said , then this Obligation shall be void, or else remain in Force;

Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of"

Which bond shall be lodged with the said secretary of Congress.

The committee to whom the instructions to the commanders of private ships or vessels of war, were recommitted, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration, and debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows:

Instructions to the commanders of private ships or vessels of war, which shall have commissions or letters of marque and reprisal, authorizing them to make captures of British vessels and cargoes.

1. You may, by force of arms, attack, subdue, and take all ships and other vessels belonging to the inhabitants of Great Britain, on the high seas, or between high water and low water mark, except ships and vessels bringing persons who intend to settle and reside in the United Colonies; or bringing arms, ammunition, or war-like stores, to the said colonies, for the use of such inhabitants thereof as are friends to the American cause, which you shall suffer to pass unmolested, the commanders thereof permitting a peaceable search, and giving satisfactory information of the contents of the ladings, and destinations of the voyages.

2. You may, by force of arms, attack, subdue, and take all ships and other vessels whatsoever, carrying soldiers, arms, gunpowder, ammunition, provisions, or any other contraband goods, to any of the British armies or ships of war employed against these colonies.

3. You shall bring such ships and vessels, as you shall take, with their guns, rigging, tackle, apparel, furniture, and ladings, to some convenient port or ports of the United Colonies, that proceedings may thereupon be had, in due form, before the courts, which are or shall be there appointed to hear and determine causes civil and maritime.

4. You, or one of your chief officers, shall bring or send the master and pilot, and one or more principal person or persons of the company of every ship or vessel by you taken, as soon after the capture as may be, to the judge or judges of such court as aforesaid, to be examined upon oath, and make answer to the interrogatories which may be propounded, touching the interest or property of the ship or vessel, and

her lading; and, at the same time, you shall deliver, or cause to be delivered, to the judge or judges, all passes, sea-briefs, charter-parties, bills of lading, cockets, letters, and other documents and writings found on board, proving the said papers, by the affidavit of yourself, or of some other person present at the capture, to be produced as they were received, without fraud, addition, subduction or embezzlement.

5. You shall keep and preserve every ship or vessel, and cargo, by you taken, until they shall, by a sentence of a court properly authorized, be adjudged lawful prizes; not selling, spoiling, wasting, or diminishing the same, or breaking the bulk thereof, nor suffering any such thing to be done.

6. If you, or any of your officers or crew, shall, in cold blood, kill or maim, or by torture or otherwise, cruelly, inhumanly, and, contrary to common usage, and the practice of civilized nations in war, treat any person or persons surprized in the ship or vessel you shall take, the offender shall be severely punished.

7. You shall, by all convenient opportunities, send to Congress written accounts of the captures you shall make, with the number and names of the captives, copies of your journal from time to time, and intelligence of what may occur or be discovered concerning the designs of the enemy, and the destination, motions, and operations of their fleets and armies.

8. One-third, at least, of your whole company shall be landsmen.

9. You shall not ransom any prisoners or captives, but shall dispose of them in such manner, as the Congress, or, if that be not sitting, in the colony whither they shall be brought, as the general assembly, convention, or council, or committee of safety, of such colony shall direct.

10. You shall observe all such further instructions as Congress shall hereafter give in the premises, when you shall have notice thereof.

11. If you shall do any thing contrary to these instructions, or to others hereafter to be given, or willingly suffer such thing to be done, you shall not only forfeit your commission, and be liable to an action for breach of the condition of your bond, but be responsible to the party grieved for damages sustained by such malversation.[1]

[1] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, 11 April, 1776.

"While the British ministry are taking every step, that cruelty and revenge can dictate, for the destruction of American liberty, it is incumbent on these United Colonies to exert their utmost efforts to defeat them.

"Happily for our country, their military operations have not been attended with the success which they sanguinely expected. This circumstance, however, far from

Order to James Mease for 20,000 dollars ||be drawn on the treasurer|| for the use of the Pensylvania Battalions, he to be accountable.[1]

Resolved, That the pay of the auditor of accounts be at the rate of 1,066 $^{2}/_{3}$ dollars per annum.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to morrow morning, at 10 o'Clock resolve itself into a committee of the whole to take into consideration the trade of the United Colonies.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1776

Resolved, That the treasurers be directed to see that Colonel Belestre's bills be drawn on some of his friends or correspondents in Canada, and not upon General Carleton.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To John De Hart, the sum of 17 dollars, and nine tenths of a dollar, for provisions furnished by Archibald Campbell.

Ordered, That the above be paid.

abating their rage, has had the effect constantly produced by disappointed passions. It has roused them to make new exertions of power against us; and we now behold American property, by a late act of Parliament, made *legal* plunder. Such a strain of rapine and violence, can be equalled only by the spirit with which it is likely to be executed.

"Having authorized the seizure of vessels belonging to these colonies, wherever found upon the high seas, there is too much reason to apprehend the execution of the edict (which we may expect in its greatest extent), will, for a time, prove a severe clog to the trade of America.

"Under these circumstances, the Congress, in hopes of checking, in some degree, an evil which they cannot, at present, remove; and acting upon the same principles of self-preservation and retaliation which they have hitherto adopted, have been induced to come into sundry resolutions relative to the fitting out letters of marque and reprisal. The trade of America is an object of so much consequence, and the protection of it so necessary, that I make no doubt of your giving all the encouragement in your power, to any measures that may be deemed expedient, for its security and existence." *John Hancock to the Assembly of Rhode Island*, 12 April, 1776. *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island*, VII, 507.

[1] This paragraph after the word Mease, is in the writing of John Hancock.

Resolved, That an order for 100 dollars be drawn on the treasurers in favour of Mons[r] Le Fontaine, for his services in Canada.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the trade of the United Colonies, and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that the committee had taken into consideration the matter referred to them, and had come to sundry resolutions, which he was ordered to deliver in.

The report of the committee being read,

Ordered, To lie on the table.

The committee, to whom the memorial from James M'Knight, and ||the letter from|| Alexander M'Donald, George Gillespie, and J. W. Sanders, were referred, brought in their report, which was read: And thereupon,

Resolved, That the committee of inspection and observation of the county of Burlington, be requested to make sale of the sloop *Sally*, whereof the said James M'Knight was prize master, and which was lately run ashore by him, within the said county, together with her tackle, apparel, and furniture, and the cargo on board, at public auction; and after deducting the charges of securing and selling the same, to divide the surplus into two parts, and pay one moiety thereof to the said James M'Knight for salvage, and retain the other moiety thereof for the owner or owners.

Resolved, That Messrs. Alexander M'Donald, George Gillespie, and J. W. Sanders, who have lately come into the colony of New Jersey from the British West India Islands, where, and in Great Britain, they have considerable property remaining, be excused from entering into the Militia of the said colony, and from signing the association; provided always, that they be, in all other respects,

subject to the like taxes and regulations with the other inhabitants of the said colony.

The committee appointed to consider the best ways and means of supplying the army in Canada, brought in a farther report, which was read:

Ordered, To lie on the table.

Resolved, That the sum of 53 dollars be advanced to Mons. St. Aulaire, to be deducted out of his pay.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Saturday next.[1]

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1776

~~Resolved, That the resolution respecting the sloop Sally, passed on Thursday last, be reconsidered, and that it be recommitted to the same committee.~~

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to supply Captain Romans with 24 musquets for the use of his company.

Resolved, That the said committee be directed to deliver to Colonel St. Clair six lbs. of powder and four pounds of lead, for the use of the riffle company in his batallion.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report from the committee of the whole; and the same being twice read, and debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That any goods, wares, and merchandise, except staves and empty casks, other than shaken or knocked down casks for molasses, may be exported from the thirteen United Colonies, by the inhabitants thereof, and by the people of all such countries as are not subject to the King of Great Britain, to any parts of the world which are not under the dominion of the said King; provided, that no vessel be permitted to export any greater

[1] April 5 was Good Friday.

number of shaken or knocked down molasses casks, than the same vessel is capable of carrying when they shall be filled with Molasses.

Resolved, That any goods, wares, and merchandise, except such as are of the growth, production, or manufacture of, or brought from any country under the dominion of the King of Great Britain, and except East India Tea, may be imported from any other parts of the world to the thirteen United Colonies, by the inhabitants thereof, and by the people of all such countries as are not subject to the said King; liable, however, to all such duties and impositions as now are, or may hereafter be laid by any of the said colonies.

Resolved, That nothing herein contained shall be understood to prevent such future commercial regulations as shall be thought just and necessary by these United Colonies, or their respective legislatures.

Resolved, That no slaves be imported into any of the thirteen United Colonies.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the assemblies and conventions in the several colonies, to appoint proper officers, at convenient places in their respective colonies, to take bonds, in adequate penalties, for observing the regulations made by the Congress, or assemblies, or conventions, concerning trade, and for securing the observation of such parts of the association as are not inconsistent therewith; and that the obligor shall, within eighteen months after the departure of the vessel, produce to such officers a certificate, under the hands and seals of three or more reputable merchants, residing at the port or place where the cargo shall be delivered, that the same was there unladed, and take manifests upon oath, of the cargoes exported and imported, and keep fair accounts and entries thereof, give bills of health when desired, grant

registers shewing the property of the vessels cleared out, and sign certificates that the requisites for qualifying vessels to trade have been complied with: And that the fees of the said officers be stated by the respective assemblies or conventions: Provided always, that no prosecution upon any of the said bonds shall be commenced but within three years after the date thereof.

Resolved, That all goods, wares, and merchandise, except such as are made prize of, which shall be imported directly or indirectly from Great Britain or Ireland, into any of these United Colonies, contrary to the regulations established by Congress, shall be forfeited and disposed of, agreeable to such rules as shall be made by the several assemblies or conventions, and shall be liable to prosecution and condemnation in any court erected, or to be erected, for the determination of maritime affairs, in the colony where the seizure shall be made.

Ordered, That the above resolutions be published.[1]

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to bring in a resolution for disposing of and using the Tea now in these colonies:

The members chosen, Mr. R[obert] Morris, Mr. [John] Jay, and Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Robert Erwin, waggon master, for William M'Carty's and Richard Key's teams, to Virginia, with powder, thirty days each, and ferriages, amounting to £93 18 9=250.5 dollars.

[1] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 10 April, 1776. These resolutions, wrote John Adams, "were far short of what had been moved by members from Massachusetts, Maryland and Virginia." *Works*, III, 39.

"Congress has agreed to open the Trade, as you will see by the enclosed paper. Some other Resolutions are preparing, I am told, by some members, respecting Trade, in which I expect, will be inserted nothing looking toward dependency. As I have not seen them, I can say nothing further of them." *Joseph Hewes to S. Johnston*, 9 April, 1776.

Ordered, That the above be paid.

The committee to whom the letters from General Schuyler, of the 7 and 19, and from William Paulding, Esq[r] chairman of ||a committee of|| the convention of New York, of the 26 of March last, were referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That the committee of inspection and observation of Albany be desired to examine, state and settle the accounts of expences incurred in the taking of Ticonderoga and Crown Point, which shall be laid before them by General Schuyler, and report the same to Congress.

Resolved, That Mr. Robert Yates be appointed secretary to the commissioners for Indian affairs in the northern department, and be allowed at the rate of two hundred and fifty dollars by the year.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Committee that the contract made the 16th day of March last, between the Committee of the Convention of New York and Mr. Abraham Livingston, for supplying the Troops employed for the defence of that Colony, with the rations allowed by Congress, and with fuel and other necessaries, be confirmed; but that the said Convention be desired to acquaint Mr. Livingston if he will have so much of the Contract as concerns the supplying the Pennsylvania Battalions serving in the said Colony; ~~and if he will not consent to do so, that these battalions be withdrawn~~ it will be for the good of the public.

Resolved, That the commissioners for Indian affair in the northern department be desired to assure the Indians that Congress will do every thing in their power to procure goods for them, and hope they shall soon accomplish it.[1]

Resolved, That the remainder of the report be postponed.

A letter from General Washington of the 27 of March, and

[1] The original of this report, in the writing of George Wythe, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, V, folio 309.

A letter from ||Brigadier|| General Heath, being received, were read,[1]

Resolved, That the letter from General Washington, with the enclosed papers, be referred to a committee of the whole.

Resolved, That the sum of 100,000 dollars be sent to New York, for the use of the army there, in the service of the United Colonies.

The Committee for Prisoners brought in a report, which was read:

The Committee for the Prisoners further report, that they have maturely considered the Letters from Brigadier General Richard Prescott, Esquire, Lieutenant Colonel John Connolly, Captain Thomas Gamble, Captain Duncan Campble, Lieutenant Allan Cameron, Surgeon John Smith and Mr. Allan McDonnell. That they have confered with the former on the subject matter of his said Letter, in which conference, he urged that the capitulation entered into by him with Major Brown off La Valtrie, was infringed in his person and property, but descended to no particulars, nor mentioned what part of his property, of what value, or by whom the same was imbezzled, which he alledged, was owing to his confinement. The Committee informed him of his cruel treatment of Captain Allen, and Mr. Walker, by putting them in irons, and burning and destroying the House and effects of the latter to a great value; he did not deny the facts, but resolved the whole into the orders of General Carlton, his commanding officer, to which he said he made no addition. They then proposed to furnish him with a copy of Thomas Walker, Esquire, his memorial to the Congress, and to wait his answer; and also let him know, that as well the officers and soldiers, as the sailors and other inhabitants of the Thirteen United Colonies, who were so unfortunate as to fall into the hands of the British forces both by land and sea, were treated with unprecedented severities, which would probably compell the Colonists to retaliate, and that if he chose to write, any thing respecting this information to General Howe, or to any person in Great Britain, his Letters should be safely and speedily forwarded.

[1] The letter of Washington is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 563. It was referred to a Committee of the Whole House. That of Heath, dated New York, April 3, is in No. 157, folio 3.

He replied, that he did not choose to see Mr. Walker's memorial nor himself, that he was not accustomed to writing, it was out of his way, and in his present state of mind inconvenient, and ~~absolutely refused~~ declined to write to General Howe &c., or to state any thing whatsoever to the Committee or Congress in writing.

Upon the whole, The Committee came to the following Resolutions:

First, That ~~General Prescott~~, John Connolly, Moses Kirkland, Allan Cameron and John Smith, be removed without delay to the old Goal in the city of Philadelphia, and there closely confined in separate apartments.[1]

Second, That Captain Thomas Gamble be not exchanged at present, there being no cartel settled.[2]

Third, That Captain Duncan Campble be permitted to reside with his wife and family in the city of Burlington, in the Western Division of New Jersey. And that Mr. Allan McDonell be permitted to remove his wife and family from John'stown, in Tryon county, in the province of New York, into the province ~~of New Jersey~~ of Pennsylvania, and that the expence of such removal be defrayed by the Public.

Fourth, That a List of the Prisoners of war in each Colony be made out and transmitted to the House of Assembly, Council or Committee of Safety of such Colonies respectively, and that they be authorized and requested to cause a strict observance of the terms on which such prisoners have been enlarged, and also to take especial care that none of those confined by order of the Congress be suffered to escape; and also that the allowance to each prisoner be punctually paid by the Presidents of the Convention or of the Council or Committee of Safety of the colony in which he resides; and where there are no Conventions by the Speakers of Assembly; which said Presidents or Speakers are hereby authorized from time to time to draw for the sums advanced in pursuance of this resolution upon the President of the Congress.[3]

‖*Ordered*, To lie on the table.‖

Resolved, That the delegates of Virginia be directed to write to their convention, or committee or council of safety, to collect and forward to the treasurers of the

[1] Against this paragraph was written "postponed."

[2] Against this paragraph was written "Agreed to." It is printed under April 9, p. 264, *post*, with other resolutions based upon this report.

[3] This report, in the writing of Thomas M^c^Kean, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 28, folio 33.

United Colonies, what gold and silver they can procure, and to draw on the president for the amount thereof, at the rate of eight dollars for half Joes, weighing nine pennyweight.

The Committee on Applications and Qualifications, having recommended Samuel Checkley, as a proper person to fill up a vacancy of an ensign in the third Pensylvania batallion:

Ordered, That a commission be granted to said Samuel Checkley accordingly.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Tuesday next.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1776

Resolved, That the sum of two hundred thousand dollars be sent to New York, for the use of the continental forces there.

Major Zedwitz returned a list of prisoners brought by him from Canada.

A letter from John Nelson, chairman of the committee of Brunswick, of the 4, respecting prisoners brought to that place; was laid before Congress, and read,

Resolved, That these be referred to the Committee on Prisoners.

A letter from Colonel Haslet, of the Delaware batallion, was also read and referred to the Committee on Prisoners.[1]

A letter of the 5, from Captain [Arthur Hill] Brice, ~~of the 7 Regiment of foot~~ a prisoner at Brunswick, was presented and read;[2]

Resolved, That said Captain Brice be permitted to come to Philadelphia, for the purpose of consulting with a physician, and there await the orders of Congress.

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XI, folio 29.

[2] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, II, folio 17.

A letter from General Wooster, of the 6 of March, and a letter from General Schuyler, of the 26 of the same month were presented to Congress, and read.[1]

The Congress proceeded to the election of an Auditor general, and the ballots being taken and examined,

John Gibson, Esq[r] was elected.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the Committee on Prisoners: Whereupon,

Resolved, That Captain Thomas Gamble be not ex changed, at present, there being no cartel settled.

Resolved, That Captain Duncan Campbell be permitted to reside with his wife and family in the city of Burlington, in the western division of New Jersey.

Resolved, That the Committee on Prisoners be directed to write to General Schuyler, and take his opinion whether Allan M'Donald, and the other hostages taken in Tryon county, may, consistent with the public safety, be permitted to return to their respective homes on their parole.

Resolved, That a list of the prisoners of war in each colony be made out and transmitted to the house of assembly, convention, council, or committee of safety of such colonies respectively, and that they be authorized and requested to cause a strict observance of the terms on which such prisoners have been enlarged, and also to take especial care that none of those confined by order of the Congress, be suffered to escape; and also, that the allowance to each prisoner be punctually paid by the president of the convention, or of the council or committee of safety of the colony in which he resides; and where there are no conventions, by the speakers of assembly; which said presidents or speakers are hereby authorised, from

[1]This letter of Schuyler is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 153, II, folio 71.

time to time, to draw for the sums advanced in pursuance of this resolution, upon the president of Congress.[1]

~~Resolved, That the paragraph respecting Kirkland &c. be postponed.~~

Resolved, That Brigadier General Prescot, upon subscribing the parole ordered, ~~when offered by the committee~~ be enlarged from his present confinement.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Lewis Nicola, for repairs done at the old gaol in this city, fitted up for the reception of troops, the sum of £84 15 2=226 dollars:

To Joseph Page, for his service in attending the powder waggons to Virginia, the sum of £20. 12. 6=55 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Benjamin Harrison, Esq[r].

To Jacob Garrigues, for transcribing minutes, Letters, &c. for Congress, the sum of £18 1 9=48 2/10 dollars.

To John Bruce, for 402 tin cartouch boxes, the sum of £65 6 6=174.2 dollars:

To John Armer and Samuel Allen, for bringing baggage, &c. belonging to Messrs. Dulhunt and Gamilli, from New York to this city, the sum of £7 17 6=21 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Samuel Allen:

On several bills, for horse hire, provisions, &c. in New York government, the sum of £5 0 3=12.5 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to John Alsop, Esq[r].

To Clement Biddle, for provisions, &c. for the 7th and 26th regiments of British troops, ||who are prisoners,|| the sum of £110 5 2 ||=294 dollars||, and for wampum for the southern department, the sum of £22 2 3 ||=59 dollars:|| amounting together to the sum of £132. 7. 5=353 dollars.

[1] The report is printed under April 6, p. 262 *ante*.

To Ludowick Kuhn, for boarding part of Captain Romans' company of matrosses, the sum of £22 8 7= 59.8 dollars:

To William Shepherd, for two horses sold by him to General Lee, the sum of sixty two pounds and ten shillings, and for several articles of gears, the further sum of £3 7 6, amounting together to the sum of £65.17.6=175.7 dollars:

To Matthias Slough, for provisions for the 7th and 26th regiments of British troops, from the 26th February, to the 21 March, the sum of £72.9.6=193.3 dollars.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

Lord Stirling having, agreeable to the order of Congress of the 19 of March ||last||, appointed persons to value the boat of Michael Kearney, Junr and transmitted the valuation by them made, amounting to £290 York currency=725 dollars:

Ordered, That the same be paid to said Michael Kearney.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1776

Two letters from General Washington, of the 1st of April, and a letter from Doctor John Connolly, of the 8, were presented to Congress and read.[1]

Resolved, That the letter from General Washington be referred to the committee of the whole.

The committee to whom the report on Indian Affairs in the middle department, and the petition of Captain

[1] The letters of Washington are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folios 571 and 577.

White Eyes, were referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration:

Resolved, That the commissioners for Indian affairs in the middle department, or any one of them, be desired to employ, for reasonable salaries, a minister of the gospel, to reside among the Delaware Indians, and instruct them in the Christian religion; a school master to teach their youth reading, writing, and arithmetic; and also, a blacksmith to do the work of the Indians in the middle department.

Resolved, That the commissioners for Indian affairs in the middle department, be desired, at the expence of the United Colonies, to provide for the entertainment of the sachems and warriors of the Indians, and their attendants and messengers, with the accustomed hospitality, when they come to Pittsburg, to treat, or give intelligence of public affairs, or upon a visit.

That the commissioners for Indian affairs be desired to acquaint the Indians in their respective departments, that the Congress have formed a plan for importing goods to supply their necessities:

That the commissioners for Indian affairs be desired to enquire into, and report the cause, of the discontent of the Indians in the middle department, what measures may be pursued to restore quiet and harmony, and to use their utmost endeavours, in the mean time, to prevent hostilities.

That although the prosperity of Dartmouth college, in the colony of New Hampshire, is a desirable object, it is neither seasonable nor prudent to contribute towards its relief or support, out of the public treasury.

That so soon as conveniently may be, a treaty be held between the commissioners for Indian affairs in the middle department, and the nations of Indians to the

westward; and that the said commissioners be desired to appoint the time and place of meeting for that purpose, and give the Indians information thereof.

That it be referred to Captain George Morgan, Æneas Mackay, Esq[r] and Captain John Neville, to adjust and determine all matters in difference between Coquataginta, or Captain White Eyes, and Messrs. Bernard Gratz and Michael Gratz; and that the arbitrators, in case either of the parties to whom it is recommended to submit to their award, shall refuse to abide thereby, report the reasons of such refusal, with a state of the case, and any other matters they shall think fit, to Congress.

That disputes which shall arise between any of the white people and the Indians in their dealings, if the latter will consent, be determined by arbitrators, chosen, one by each of the parties, and another by the commissioners for Indian affairs, or when they are absent, by the agent in the department where the Indian party resides.

Resolved, That that part of the report relative to fort Detroit be postponed.

The Congress then ~~took into consideration the draught of a speech to be delivered to Captain White Eyes, previous to determining on this the Congress~~ proceeded to the choice of an agent for Indian affairs in the middle department, and the ballots being taken ||and examined,||

George Morgan, Esq[r] was elected.

Resolved, That the sum of three hundred dollars be presented to Captain White Eyes.

Resolved, That George Morgan, the agent for Indian affairs in the middle department, be empowered to purchase for Captain White Eyes, two horses with two saddles and bridles, and that the treasurers be directed to pay to said Mr. Morgan, a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars for defraying the expence thereof.

Resolved, That the following speech be delivered to Captain White Eyes to morrow morning.

Brother Captain White Eyes,

We have not been unmindful of our promises made to you and your nation, the 16 of December. We now thank you for your speech to us of the 2d of last month.

Brothers, the Delawares,

At the council fire, at Pittsburg, last fall, and since by our brother Captain White Eyes, who hath been all the winter with us, you requested our assistance to promote peace and useful knowledge among you, particularly the knowledge of the Christian religion. We rejoice, brothers, to find you thus disposed, and will, as early as we can, provide a suitable minister, and schoolmaster, and a sober man to instruct you in agriculture. These things we agree to do, brothers, at your request, and to convince you that we wish to advance your happiness, and that there may be a lasting union between us, and that, as you express it, we may become one people. The introduction of useful arts among you will be effected, we apprehend, by encouraging handicraft men to settle and reside in your country. The method of doing this, must be left to your own discretion.

Brothers,

We desire that you will make it known among all the Indian nations to the westward, that we are determined to cultivate peace and friendship with them, and that we will endeavour, by making the best regulations in our power, to prevent any of our people wronging them in any manner, or taking their lands; and that we will strive to put the trade between us on such a footing, as will secure the peace, and promote the interest of all parties; and we expect, that all the wise men of every Indian nation, will use their influence for the same purpose.

Brothers,

We have named George Morgan, Esq^{r} as agent under our commissioners for Indian affairs in the middle department, and we desire you will confer with him on whatever business you may have with us. We hope you will inform him of all public matters. We recommend him to your friendship.

Brothers,

You tell us, that your uncles, our brothers, the Wiandots, have given your nation a large tract of country, comprehended between the river Ohio on the south, the west branch of the river Muskingham

and Sandusky on the west, Lake Erie on the north, and Presque Isle on the west [east]:

Brothers,

Hearken to our advice. As we are informed that your uncles, our brothers, the Six Nations, claim most of those lands, we recommend it to you to obtain their approbation of this grant to you from the Wiandots in public council, and have it put on record. Such a step will prevent uneasiness and jealousy on their part, and continue the confidence and friendship which subsists between you and them. We wish to promote the lasting peace and happiness of all our brothers, the Indian nations, who live with us on this great island. As far as your settlement and security may depend upon us, you may be assured of our protection. We shall take all the care in our power, that no interruption or disturbance be given you by our people, nor shall any of them be suffered, by force or fraud, to deprive you of any of your lands, or to settle them without a fair purchase from you, and your free consent. If, contrary to our intention, any injury should be offered to you by any of our people, inform us of it, and we shall always be ready to procure you satisfaction and redress.

Brother Captain White Eyes,

We desire you will inform your nation, your uncles the Six Nations, and Wiandots, your grand children the Shawanese, and all the other nations, what you have seen and heard among us, and exhort them to keep fast hold of the covenant chain of friendship, which we have so lately repaired and strengthened. As you are now about to depart, we present you with some money to buy cloaths and necessaries, and pay your expences, and we wish you a good journey, and bid you farewell.[1]

||Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.||

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1776

A letter from General Putnam, at New York, of the 7, with sundry papers enclosed, ~~also a letter from Captain Barry~~ was presented to Congress, and read.[2]

[1] A copy of this Speech, in the writing of Charles Thomson, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 30, folio 347.

[2] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 159, folio 172.

Resolved, That an order for 10,000 dollars be drawn on the treasurers in favour of Carpenter Wharton, commissary, for the use of the Pensylvania batallions, he to be accountable.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Lieutenant Colonel Zedwitz, for expences in curing a wound received by him in falling from the walls of Quebec, and his expences from thence to Philadelphia, the sum of 255.6 dollars:

To John Hales, for carriage hire, &c. the sum of £83 12 6 = 223 dollars for the Canada commissioners:

To Dr. Jonathan Potts, for attending the prisoners at Reading, the sum of £28 15 0 ||= 76.6 dollars||; and for sundry medicines, &c. provided for the middle department, the sum of £50 9 1 ||= 134.6 dollars||, amounting, together, to the sum of £79 4 1 = 211.2 dollars.

To Oliver Wolcott, Esq[r] for his expences in attending a treaty with the Six Indian Nations at Albany, the sum of 60 dollars:

To the following persons for boarding, &c. Gen. Lee's guards, to wit:

To Richard Jacobs, the sum of	£2	7	10 =	6.4	dollars.
To William Staddleman,	£2	15	4 =	7.4	do.
To William M'Dowell,	£1	5	6 =	3.4	do.
To Lawrence Fegan,	£3	3	0 =	8.4	do.
To Jacob Wyncoop,	£5	2	1 =	13.6	do.
To Michael Gallagher,	£0	13	6 =	1.8	do.
To John Kerlin,	£3	4	4 =	8.6	do.
To Charles Stultz,	£1	7	6 =	3.7	do.

To Captain Long, the sum of 10.7 dollars, for so much advanced by him to Captain John Nelson, of one of the riffle companies:

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

Resolved, That the Committee of Claims allow, for the support of the hostages sent by General Schuyler from Tryon county, the sum of two dollars per week.

Resolved, That two new members be elected for the cannon committee, in the room of two who are absent:

The ballots being taken, Mr. [George] Clinton, and Mr. [William] Whipple were elected.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to supply the delegates of Maryland with one ton of powder, for the use of the inhabitants of the Eastern Shore, in that colony.

Resolved, That the committee of safety of Pensylvania, be requested to provide proper barracks or quarters for such of the continental troops, as may be, from time to time, in the city of Philadelphia.

Resolved, That the commanding officer at New York be directed to discharge the militia of New Jersey who are in the pay of the continent:

That the commanding officer at New York be directed to discharge the whole, or such part of the militias of New York and Connecticut, now in the pay of the continent, as the public service will permit.

A petition from Eliphalet Dyer and William Williams, in behalf of the colony of Connecticut, was presented to Congress and read, setting forth, that the colony had advanced large sums of money for the service of the continent over and above what have been paid them; that tho' they have used their utmost diligence, they have not yet been able to prepare a full state of their accounts to lay before Congress, and as their treasury is exhausted, and the colony and the public interest in danger of suffering for want of supplies, praying that the Congress would advance to the colony the sum of fifty thousand pounds, lawful [money,] in part of their advances.

Resolved, That the sum of 166,666 $^{2}/_{3}$ dollars be advanced to the colony of Connecticut, on account of their advances for the service of the continent, the said colony to be accountable.

Captain White Eyes being called in, the speech was delivered to him, and the money paid.

Resolved, That the sum of fifty dollars be paid to Isaac Stille, the Interpreter.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the conventions and committees or councils of safety of Virginia and North Carolina, to provide for the maintenance and security of the prisoners made from the enemy in their colonies, agreeably to the regulations of Congress for the support of prisoners, and that the expence shall be defrayed by the continent.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to examine into the truth of the report respecting Governor Tryon's exacting an Oath from persons going ~~to Great Britain~~ by the Packet, and to ascertain the fact by affidavits taken before a chief Justice, or other chief Magistrate.

The committee chosen, Mr. [John] Jay, Mr. [George] Wythe, and Mr. [James] Wilson.

Resolved, That the sum of thirty dollars be advanced to John Harkness, a wounded soldier, who was discharged at Cambridge without any pay.

Information being given that Mr. Hewes, a prisoner, has been defrauded of a large quantity of goods,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to enquire into the truth of this matter, and report to Congress:

The members chosen, Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, Mr. [Samuel] Huntington, and Mr. [James] Duane.

The committee to whom the petition of John Secord was referred, brought in their report, which was read.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several assemblies, conventions, and committees or councils of safety of the United Colonies, to use their best endeavours in

communicating to foreign nations the resolutions of Congress relative to trade.[1]

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1776

A letter from William H. Drayton, president of the convention of South Carolina, of the 21 of March, with a copy of the act of parliament prohibiting all trade and commerce with the American colonies: also,

A letter from Colonel John Haslet, of the 10th instant, enclosing an account of an engagement between the detachment of the Delaware batallion at Lewis, and a tender of the *Roebuck;* also informing that another company is wanted at Lewis, and that he had ordered one to march thither, were presented to Congress, and read:[2]

Resolved, That the conduct of Colonel Haslet, in ordering another company to Lewis, be approved.

The Committee on Qualifications having recommended James Hunter, as a fit person to fill the oldest vacancy of second lieutenant, and Joel Westcoat, as a suitable person to fill the second eldest vacancy of second lieutenant in the third Pensylvania Batallion,

Resolved, That commissions be granted to them accordingly.

~~The Congress took into consideration the report of the Committee on the means of supplying the troops in Canada.~~

Resolved, That the Treasurers be directed to pay to Mr. Price, ||of Canada|| the sum of 16,000 dollars in specie,

[1] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, 20 April, 1776.

[2] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XI, folio 41.

in part of the sum ordered to be advanced to him and Mr. Haywood.

~~Resolved, That the farther consideration of the report be postponed, and that the Committee who brought in the report, be directed to inform Mr. Price of the resolution passed.~~[1]

Resolved, That this Congress will proceed to the election of a chief Engineer, in the continental Army in Canada. The ballots being taken, Major Elias Wrixon was elected.

Resolved, That Mr. Wrixon have the rank of Colonel in the continental Army.

A Petition from Colonel James Easton was presented to Congress and read:

Resolved, That it be referred to a Committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. [Carter] Braxton, Mr. [James] Duane, and Mr. [Robert] Alexander.

Resolved, That the assemblies, conventions, committees or councils of safety of the colonies respectively, in which prisoners are or shall choose, or be appointed to reside, be empowered to remove such prisoners from place to place within the same colonies, as often as to such assemblies, conventions, committees or councils of safety, respectively, it shall seem proper, having regard to the former resolutions of Congress concerning prisoners.

Resolved, That Mr. [Robert] Alexander be appointed a member of the Marine Committee, in the room of Mr. [Samuel] Chase, who is absent.

A memorial from the Scotch hostages was presented to Congress and read:

Resolved, That it be referred to the Committee of Claims.

[1] This last instruction originally read: "be directed to confer with Mr. Price respecting the time he can wait for a further supply of specie, and also to enquire."

The Committee of Claims reported that there is due To Henry Holler

for riffles and cash furnished to Capt. Nelson's company of riffle men to be charged to said company	£136. 16
for provisions for said company	64. 5. 1
for necessaries provided by him for prisoners at Reading	451. 2. 3
for his pay as quarter Master in procuring provisions	22. 2. 6
for provisions made for receiving the prisoners from Johnstown	89. 19. 11½
for expresses and other incidental charges	23. 12. 2
The whole amounting to	787. 17. 11½

equal to 2101 dollars.

Resolved, That the same be paid.

~~Resolved, That to Morrow be assigned for taking into consideration the report of the Committee on General Washington's letter of the 24 of March.~~

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1776

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers for 20,000 dollars in favour of James Mease, commissary, for the use of the Pensylvania batallions, he to be accountable.

Mr. Mease having applied to Congress for advice how to conduct [himself] in paying the sixth Pensylvania batallion,

Resolved, That the queries propounded by Mr. Mease, be referred to the Committee for procuring fire arms.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Robert Erwin, the sum of 436 dollars, being the ballance of his account for waggon-hire.

‖*Ordered*, That the same be paid.‖

A petition from the committees of the townships of Wallpack, Sandystone, and Montague, in the county of Sussex, in New Jersey, was presented to Congress and read:

Resolved, That the same be referred to the Commissioners for Indian affairs, who are members of Congress.

The committee appointed to prepare a resolution for the sale and consumption of the teas now in these colonies, brought in their report, which was read ||and agreed to as follows:||

Whereas, by the third article of the association entered into by the late Continental Congress, at Philadelphia, on the 24th day of October, in the year of our Lord, 1774, it was agreed, that, from that day, the inhabitants of the United Colonies "would not purchase or use any tea imported on Account of the East India company, or any on which a duty had been or should be paid, and from and after the first day of March then next following, they would not purchase or use any East India tea whatever:" And whereas, it has been represented to this Congress, that the time, as aforesaid limited for the consumption of the tea then on hand, was too short; whereby many zealous friends to the American cause, who had imported large quantities of that commodity, with design not merely to advance their fortunes, but to counteract the plan then pursued by the ministry, and India company, to introduce and sell in these colonies tea subject to duty, are likely to become great sufferers; the greater part of the estates of many of them being vested in that article, and they, by that means, rendered incapable not only of paying their debts and maintaining their families, but also of vigourously exerting themselves in the service of their country: And whereas, it was originally the design of Congress, that all India tea, which had been imported agreeable to the tenor of the said association, might be sold and consumed, but the time limited for that purpose proving too short;

Resolved, That all India tea, imported as aforesaid, expressly excepting all teas imported by or on Account of the East India company, now remaining on hand in these colonies, be sold and used:

And whereas, from the future importation of tea being prohibited, some tea-holders may be tempted to avail themselves of the scarcity which will be occasioned by it, and exact exorbitant prices for an article of little real value in itself, and which owes its worth to an habit, in many respects, pernicious to the inhabitants of these colonies,

Resolved, therefore, That Bohea tea ought not to be sold by retail in the smallest quantities, at a higher price, in any colony, than at the rate of three-fourth parts of a dollar per pound; and other teas at such a price as shall be regulated by the committees of the town or county where the tea is sold; and that all persons who shall either give or take a greater price for it, ought to be considered as enemies to the American cause, and treated accordingly. And it is earnestly recommended to all committees of inspection and observation, as well to be vigilant in carrying this resolve into execution, as those which prohibit the importation of India tea from any part of the world. It being the desire of Congress to exclude all teas, except such as may make part of the cargoes of prizes taken by the ships of war or privateers belonging to these colonies.[1]

[1] "Immediately upon the receipt of your letter we applied to Congress for permission to order the East-India tea now in your stores to be sold, and to direct the produce thereof to be carried into the Colony Treasury, to be appropriated in such manner as your Assembly should judge right. In consequence of this application, a debate of some length ensued, in which the House indicated a strong inclination to lay their hands upon the profits which should arise from the sale, either for the use of the Continent at large, or to be carried into a fund to reimburse those Colonies whose property should be seized in England. There appeared neither reason nor justice in these measures, and we endeavoured to obviate the objections which were made to

Ordered, That the above be published.[1]

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to deliver to Lieutenant Colonel Hartley one quarter cask of powder, to repay so much by him borrowed for the use of the continent.

The committee appointed to prepare a letter to the committee of safety of New Jersey, brought in a draught, which being read, was agreed to:

Ordered, That the same be transcribed, signed by the president, and transmitted.

The committee appointed to consider the representation and queries of Mr. J[ames] Mease, respecting the sixth

the application, and to answer the arguments which had been advanced against it. We observed that this property should be looked upon as belonging to the King of Great Britain, and not to the East-India Company, as the latter had been divested of it both by the seizure which the custom-house officers had made of it and by the indemnification of the Parliament; that the Congress had therefore no more right to apply this tea to the use of the Continent at large, than they had to dispose of the cannon in our forts or the Crown lands within the limits of the Colony; but that if it was the East-India Company's property, they had occasioned such an expense to the State of Carolina as to justify them fully in the seizures; that it would be repugnant to the principles of justice to insist that this tea should be sold for the benefit of those whose property had been or might be seized in England, in exclusion of those whose property had been seized in America, and that it would be impracticable to bring every species of loss into one common account; that the seizure of property had been a common misfortune, of which, as well as of publick expenses, we have had our full proportion, and that, therefore, it would be injurious to our State not to be permitted to make use of the advantage in this instance which the possession of the tea had given. It was confessed that we had a right to sell it if we chose, and apply the profits as we pleased; but as we had asked the opinion of the House upon the subject, we should now be governed by the disposition which they should think proper to make, and that they should take time to consider of it. The Delegates being by this time fully convinced that there were many in the House who wished to dispose of it in a manner injurious to the interest and the right of our State, agreed to withdraw the motion, for which they obtained the leave of Congress; and we now, with one voice, advise you to recommend to your Assembly immediately to sell the same and apply the profits thereof to Colonial purposes. Indeed, we were not a little surprised at your requesting us to lay the same before Congress, and we hope that you will determine for yourselves in future in all cases where the concern is of a Provincial and not of a Continental nature." *The Delegates of the State of South Carolina in Congress to John Rutledge*, 25 July 1776. Force, *American Archives*, Fifth Series, III, 16.

[1] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 17 April, 1776.

battalion of troops commanded by Colonel Irvine, brought in their report, which was read: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the certificates of magistrates, or other respectable inhabitants of the county of Cumberland, who have inspected and examined the companies of the said battalion, shall, in this instance, justify the pay master in paying such companies, agreeable to the said certificates, the muster master being absent:

That the supernumerary privates that have been inlisted, and are armed and cloathed, be continued and paid:

That the officers in said batallion be paid for their subsistence since the recruiting service has been over, at the rates used in other batallions:

That the claim of the ensign in Captain Wilson's company to pay and subsistence from the time of his entering into actual service, be allowed.

Resolved, That the Marine Committee be empowered to build two gallies, capable of carrying each two 36 or 42 pounders, to oppose the enemy's vessels in bays and harbours.

Resolved, That the Committee for casting cannon be directed to contract for the casting forty howitzers, with a sufficient quantity of shells.

The committee appointed to take into consideration the application of Mr. James Hughes, late town major of Montreal, and one of the prisoners of the thirteen United Colonies, brought in their report, wherein they represent,

"That it appears to them that Mrs. Hughes, the wife of the said James Hughes, on or about the 5th of February last, bargained with a certain Jabez West, for divers goods and merchandise, in her possession, at Montreal, for which the said West, (as said J. Hughes alledges,) agreed to pay £905 11 $9\frac{3}{4}$, sterling money of Great Britain,

and £151 1 9, Hallifax currency, in gold and silver, to said Hughes, within eighteen days from that time; upon which payment being made, the goods were to be delivered at Albany, to the said West, by a certain Mr. John Stevenson, of Albany, to whom they were to be sent at the expence of said West: That the said West paid to the said Hughes 240 dollars, in part; but it was, as said Hughes alledges, agreed, that if the residue of the money was not paid within the time limited, then the 240 dollars were to be forfeited, and the goods not to be delivered; that the goods arrived at Albany, and were in the possession of Mr. Stevenson, who, on the 11th of March last, by some means or other, was induced to deliver the goods to West, though he paid no money; that the said West gave a bond to said Stevenson, payable to said Hughes, for £1609 18 8, continental currency, on the 9th of April, instant, without any authority from said Hughes, as he alledges; that the said West proceeded with the goods, immediately on the receipt of them, to some of the eastern colonies, and, it is apprehended, to Connecticut. Upon the whole, the committee are of opinion, that the said Hughes may probably lose his debt from West, without the interposition of Congress, or their permission to him to go in pursuit of the said West:" Whereupon,

Resolved, That Governor Trumbull, of the colony of Connecticut, be desired to direct the most effectual method, according to law, to be taken, for securing the person of Jabez West, or his effects, to the value of the debt due to James Hughes, if either can be found in his government; and to see that justice be done in the premises.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Monday.

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1776

A letter from General Washington, of the 4th enclosing a letter from Governor Cooke, and an account of the powder supplied the army at Cambridge, by the colony of Massachusetts, from the 10th of June; also, a letter from General Schuyler, of the 2d, with eight papers enclosed, being laid before Congress, and read,[1]

Resolved, That the same be referred to Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, and Mr. S[amuel] Adams.

Resolved, That the intelligence received respecting the Indians, be kept secret.

The committee to whom the petition from the committee of Wallpack, &c. was committed, brought in their report, which was agreed to: Whereupon,

Resolved, That an order be drawn, by the chairman of the Secret Committee, upon Henry Wisner, Esq[r] in favour of the petitioners, for 200 lb. of powder, they paying for the same:

That 1000 flints be delivered to the petitioners:

That the petitioners be directed to send Garret Broadhead, Esq[r] to the nearest Indian settlement, in order to discover whether any uneasiness subsists among the Indians in that part of the country; and, if it subsists, from what cause it arises:

That a letter be written by the president of the Congress to General Schuyler, informing him of the apprehensions of the inhabitants on the western boundary of New Jersey from the Indians, and requesting him to

[1] The letter of Washington is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 581. It is printed in *Writings of Washington*, (Ford) IV, 9. A copy of Governor Cooke's letter is in the same volume of Papers, folio 585. The letter of Schuyler is in No. 153, II, folio 75.

direct proper enquiries to be made, whether there be any foundation for such apprehensions.

The Congress, taking into consideration the report of the committee on the petition of John Secord,

Resolved, That a certifyed copy of the said Petition be transmitted to the governor of Connecticut; that he be requested to cause enquiry to be made into the truth of the facts therein stated; and, if found true, that it be recommended to him to cause restitution to be made to the petitioner.

Resolved, That it be again recommended to the settlers at Wyoming and the Susquehannah river, as well those under Pensylvania as those under Connecticut, to cultivate harmony, to consider themselves as jointly interested in the event of the American cause, and not, by mutual acts of violence or oppression, to injure that union which so happily subsists between all the colonies, and on which their welfare so much depends.

Resolved, That the Committee on fortifying ports, be Empowered to write in the name of the Congress to General Washington, and request him to send a proper person to examine such ports on the coast of New England as they shall direct, and report thereon.[1]

That the said committee be empowered to employ proper persons to examine the several ports and harbours on the coast between New York and Delaware bay, and between Delaware bay and Chesapeake, and to the southward.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to supply the inhabitants of Monmouth county, in New Jersey, with 300 lb. of powder, they paying for the same.

[1] This letter is in the *Letters to Washington*, 89, folio 124. Washington named Colonel Richard Gridley to view the works at Cape Ann and Colonel Henry Knox to report on those of New London.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to bring in a Resolution, whereby persons resident, having property in America, who assist any of the enemies of these United Colonies in the captures of vessels or goods, may be made liable to make good the damages to the sufferers:

The members chosen, Mr. [Carter] Braxton, Mr. [John] Jay, and Mr. [George] Wythe.

A petition from Moses Kirkland, a prisoner, was presented to Congress, and read:

Resolved, That the same be referred to the Committee on Prisoners.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on the ways and means of supplying the troops in Canada; Whereupon,

Resolved, That Mr. R[obert] Morris be directed to purchase bills of Exchange to the amount of three thousand pounds sterling, and deliver the same to Mr. Price ~~in part of debt due to him~~; and that he, Mr. R. M. be indemnified from any loss that may arise by endorsing the same:

Resolved, That the sum of £5000 = 13,333.3 dollars be advanced to Mr. Price, to be employed by him in the service of the continent, in Canada, he to be accountable.

Resolved, That the officers of the riffle batallion, and independent riffle companies, be authorized and directed to recruit the said batallion and companies, and inlist them as speedily as possible; and their re-inlistment be for two years from the expiration of their present term, liable to be discharged sooner, if the Congress shall think proper, upon receiving a month's pay advance.

A petition from Thomas Leaming, Junr. in behalf of the committee of inspection of the county of Cape May, in the province of New Jersey, was presented and read, set-

ting forth the defenceless state of that part of the country, ~~and the advantages which the enemy may reap from it unless care is taken to prevent them,~~ and praying for a supply of powder and lead, and that two companies of the continental forces may be stationed there.

Resolved, That the prayer of the petition be granted.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1776

A letter from [Commodore] E. Hopkins, Commander of the fleet from New London, of the 9th, enclosing a list of the cannon and stores brought from Providence;

A letter from the committee of Baltimore, of the 14th, enclosing copies of intercepted letters ||from the Secretary of State to governor Eden;||

A letter from General Thomas, of the 8th, being received were ||laid before Congress, and|| read.[1]

Ordered, That the secretary publish an extract of Commander Hopkins letter.

||The Congress, taking into consideration the letter from the committee of Baltimore, and the papers enclosed, came to the following resolutions:||

Whereas information has been this day laid before Congress, from which there is great reason to believe, that Robert Eden, Esq[r] governor of the colony of Maryland, has lately carried on a correspondence with the British ministry, highly dangerous to the liberties of America;

Resolved, therefore, That the council of safety of Maryland be earnestly requested, immediately to cause the person and papers of Governor Eden to be seized and

[1] The letter of Hopkins is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XI, folio 33. That of the Baltimore Committee is in No. 70, folio 21. That of Thomas is in No. 78, XXII, folio 17.

secured, and such of the papers as relate to the American dispute, without delay, conveyed safely to Congress; and that copies of the intercepted letters from the Secretary of State, be enclosed to the said council of safety.

Resolved, That the council of safety of Maryland be requested to cause the person and papers of Alexander Ross to be immediately seized and secured, and that the papers be sent safely to Congress.

And to prevent the said Alexander Ross having any opportunity to escape,

Resolved, That the like request be made to the committees of observation for Baltimore and Frederic counties in Maryland, in one of which counties the said Alexander Ross probably now is.[1]

[1] "Yesterday morning, just before the meeting of Congress, the letters from Baltimore, which occasioned the resolution of yesterday, came to the hands of the President. By the same express, and, as I believe, under the same cover, came an anonymous letter, referring to a copy therein enclosed from General Lee to Mr. Samuel Purviance. I saw and read the copy, which was in Purviance's handwriting. Lee strongly urged the immediate seizing and securing of the Governour.

"After the minutes of the preceding day were read, the President began reading the anonymous letter; but he had not proceeded far before he came to a part desiring that it might not be made known to the Congress, but, as I think, to such only as the President might think proper to trust with the contents. The President hesitated; for he had not before read the letter, and seemed desirous of running his eye over it; but, on being desired to read out, he did so. * * *

"As soon as the letter was read, a motion was made to send the original, or a copy of it, to you; which was warmly supported. But it was put off till to-day, to make way for the consideration of the subject of the express; and in the meantime, all was ordered to be secret. Messrs. Stone and Alexander who had been delayed in writing letters by the post, came into the Congress in this stage of the affair, and are, as well as myself, privy to the after transactions." *Thomas Johnson, Jun. to Maryland Council of Safety*, 17 April, 1776. Force, *American Archives*, Fourth Series, V. 965.

"We moved yesterday in Congress, that the letter referred to by Mr. Johnson should be immediately transmitted to you, that you might have an opportunity of vindicating your honour against the malicious charges made by the writer. This produced a warm debate, which lasted for several hours. We insisted (and were supported by several gentlemen) that the letter, containing the most severe reflections upon you, as a publick body, ought not to be concealed; that it was absolutely necessary, in the present state of our affairs, that the dignity of the Executives of every

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Isaac Melchior, for expences from Montreal to Philadelphia, the sum of thirteen pounds including a part of St. Luke La Corne's expences to Albany, =34.7 dollars:

To Leonard Melchior, for boarding M^r^ M'Donald twenty days, the sum of six pounds=16 dollars:

To William Chew, for riding express to North Carolina and back, including ferriages, the sum of £33 15=90 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Joseph Hewes, Esq^r^

To Samuel Purviance, Jun^r^ the sum of fifty pounds [=133.3 dollars,] money advanced by Colonel Charles Beaty to Captain James Grier, and that the same ought to be paid, and charged to the said Captain James Grier:

To Anthony Tricker for boarding Donald M'Donald,

Province should be supported, if properly conducted; and if there rested a suspicion that any publick body, either from weakness or want of integrity, omitted or refused to execute the trust committed to them, it ought to be made known to their constituents, that the power might be placed in more safe hands; that the exertions of the letter-writer had already produced, in part of the Council of Virginia, distrust and suspicion of you; that we had the most convincing proofs, upon all occasions, of your integrity, vigilance, and activity in the common cause; and therefore, esteemed it our duty to insist that justice might be done to your injured characters. It was argued against the motion, that the letter was confidential; that it had raised no suspicions in the Congress of your zeal or integrity, because they had reposed the highest confidence in you immediately afterwards, by the recommendation sent by the return of the express; that the mischief, which would be produced by communicating the letter would be greater than any benefit which could be expected from it; and that the President was not obliged to produce the letter before the Congress, to take order thereon, although it had been read in the House. Upon the question whether the President should be requested to lay the letter before Congress, five Colonies voted in the negative, three in the affirmative, and one divided.

"We conceived this treatment to you, and our Province, to be cruel and ungenerous to the last degree. The obligation to secrecy expired yesterday; and we immediately determined to give you such a state of this transaction as our memories supply us with; and Mr. Johnson committed to writing what passed on the first day. We this morning waited on Mr. Hancock to demand the letter, but he refused to see us." *Maryland Delegates to the Council of Safety of Maryland*, 18 April, 1776. Force, *American Archives*, Fourth Series, V, 971.

and others of the Scots prisoners, taken by General Schuyler, near Johnstown, the sum of £56. 5. 3=150 dollars:

To Pelatiah Webster, the sum of 66.3 dollars, for purchasing goods for the continent, including some incidental expences.

Ordered, That the above be paid.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to supply the inhabitants of Monmouth county in New Jersey with 500 flints.

The Congress then proceeded to the election of an assistant or clerk to the auditor general, and the ballots being taken:

Mr. William Webb was elected.

A letter from H. Beaumont, surgeon to the 26 regiment, of the 15 was ||laid before Congress, and|| read:

Resolved, That the same be referred to the Committee on Prisoners.

Resolved, That the farther sum of three hundred and seventy five pounds, Pensylvania currency ||=1000 dollars|| be paid to Messrs. Price and Haywood, in consideration of their extraordinary services in Canada.

Whereas much inconvenience may be derived to the public from committees, others than the committees of safety in each colony, on the public post roads, stopping and opening the mails, and detaining letters from the constitutional post; It is therefore,

Resolved, That no committee but the council or committee of safety in each colony, or such person as they shall, on extraordinary occasions, authorize, should stop the constitutional post, open the mail, or detain any letters therefrom.[1]

[1] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, 18 April, 1776.

Resolved, That the president write to Commodore Hopkins ||and direct him|| to send a complete list and state of the stores taken and brought from Providence, with the sizes ||of the cannon,|| &c. and, in case he should have left New London, that Governor Trumbull be desired to order a list of the stores left at New London by Commodore Hopkins, to be made out, and transmitted to Congress.

Resolved, That the cannon and such other of the stores as are not necessary for the fleet, be landed and left at New London, and that such of the cannon and wheels as Governor Trumbull shall direct, may be employed for the defence of that harbour, during the pleasure of the Congress.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1776

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To John Avery, Junr for riding express from Commodore Hopkins and back, the sum of 40.7 dollars.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

Resolved, That the Marine Committee be instructed to recommend to the Congress, proper persons for commission officers for the frigates now building, and that the warrant officers be appointed by said committee; and that they fit the said frigates for the sea with all expedition:

That the Marine Committee recommend to Congress proper persons to be agents for prizes in the several colonies:

That a bounty of eight dollars be allowed by the public to the owner of every American vessel for every able seaman that he shall import into the United Colonies, over

and above the number said vessel carried out; and that foreigners importing able seamen over and above the ship's company, and discharging them in the American ports, shall be entitled to the same bounty.

Resolved, That the nomination or appointment of captains or commanders of continental vessels shall not establish rank, which is to be settled by Congress before commissions are granted.

||The Congress having proceeded to the election of captains for the two frigates building in Massachusetts bay,||

The ballots being taken,

~~William~~ John Manly and Isaac Cazneau, were elected captains of the two frigates now building in Massachusetts bay.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be empowered to give orders for the arming and manning abroad any of the ships or vessels employed in the importation of cargoes for the continental account; the expences and charges of such armaments to be paid by the said Committee; they receiving for the public service, on the arrival of every vessel, all the arms, ammunition, and stores.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be empowered to import cargoes of salt on the continental account, in such ships or vessels as they employ to carry outward cargoes, and are obliged to insure on their return.

Resolved, That the committee of safety of the province of Pensylvania be requested to permit John Young, Junr. and Johnston Smith, to carry to Virginia, all such arms as they have already purchased, or shall purchase in Pensylvania, for the use of the continental Army in the said colony of Virginia, before the first day of May next; ~~at such price as the said Committee shall regulate;~~ not to exceed one thousand stand in the whole.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to supply Mr. [Thomas] Leaming with 200 lb. of powder, for the use of the militia of Cape May, he paying for the same.

Resolved, That the commanding officer at New York, be directed to order two companies of Colonel Dayton's battallion to march to Cape May, there to remain till farther orders.

Resolved, That the petition of Dr. Jackson be referred to the Committee of Claims.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1776

A letter from General Washington of the 15th; also,

A letter from the Rev. Samuel Langdon, of the 7th of November, accompanied with a letter from General Putnam, and Colonels Glover, Bridge, Fry, and Prescot; also,

A letter from James Warren, pay master general, desiring leave to resign his office, being received were read:[1]

Resolved, That the same be referred to a committee of three:

The members chosen, Mr. [George] Read, Mr. [George] Clinton, and Mr. [Carter] Braxton.

A letter from Elizabeth Seymour, widow of the late master of the *Cabot*, was presented to Congress, and read:

Resolved, That the same be referred to the Marine Committee.

Resolved, That the Committee on Indian affairs be directed to prepare, and report a draught of instructions

[1]The letter of Washington is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 587. It is printed in *Writings of Washington* (Ford), IV, 17. That of Warren is in No. 78, XXIII, folio 269.

to George Morgan, Esq[r] Agent under the Commissioners for Indian affairs in the middle department.

A letter from Brigadier General Lewis, of the 6th, also a letter from General Lee, of the 6th, being received were read, and referred to the same Committee to whom General Washington's was referred.[1]

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Dr. Samuel Treat, for medicine, and for attending the troops at Burlington, the sum of £102 12 8 = 273.7 dollars:

To John Bull, Esq[r] for expences in conducting Money to the camp at Cambridge, the sum of £58 2 11 = 155 dollars:

To Jacob Meng, for waggonage, the sum of £40 6 3 = 107.5 dollars.

To Robert Kennedy, for necessaries furnished to Captain Morgan's company, the sum of £163 4 3 Virginia currency = 544 dollars, of which sum, £56 15 ||=189.2 dollars,|| is for riffles, shirts, &c. to be charged to the said company:

To Thaddeus Burr, for money paid by him for horse hire, &c. the sum of thirty seven dollars and two tenths, which sum ought to be charged to Jacob Hiltzheimer, express master:

To sundries, on certificates produced by Thomas Johnson, Esq[r] for provisions, &c. for General Lee's guards, the sum of £4 0 6 ||=10.7 dollars|| and for a riffle delivered to Captain Cressop's company, to be charged to said company, £4 0 0 ||=10.6 dollars:||

To Jane Allen, for necessaries to several companies of continental troops, the sum of £19 16 10 = 52.9 dollars, of which sum £15 ||=40 dollars|| ought to be charged to

[1] The letter from Lewis is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 159, folio 234; that of Lee is in No. 158, folio 41.

the first Pensylvania batallion, and deducted from the commissaries account:

To Dr. Hall Jackson, for his services as surgeon, the sum of 130 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Elbridge Gerry, Esq[r].

To William Smith, for medicines, Instruments, &c. for the Delaware batallion, the sum of £96 10 3=257.4 dollars:

To Timothy Shalor, for expences in bringing prisoners from Egg Harbour, the sum of £14. 1. 1=37.5 dollars.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

The Marine Committee having recommended gentlemen for captains of the *Hornet* and *Wasp*, the Congress proceeded to an election, and the ballots being taken, and examined,

Mr. [William] Hallock was elected captain of the *Hornet;* and,

[Charles] Alexander captain of the *Wasp.*

The committee appointed to consider the propriety of establishing a war office, brought in their report, which was read.[1]

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1776

A letter from Governor Trumbull, of the 2d, with a petition from Noah Phelps being presented to Congress, and read,

Resolved, That the same be referred to the Committee on Qualifications.

A motion being made and seconded for ascertaining the value of several species of gold,

Resolved, That the same be referred to a committee of

[1] This report is printed under June 12, p. — *post.*

seven ||be appointed to examine and ascertain the value of the several species of gold and silver coins, current in these colonies, and the proportions they ought to bear to Spanish milled dollars:||

The members chosen, Mr. [James] Duane, Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, Mr. [Thomas] Johnson, and Mr. [William] Whipple.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Peter Brunner,[1] for necessaries furnished to Captain Nelson's company by himself and Abraham Vanhorn, the sum of £9 9 4=25.2 dollars, and ought to be charged to the said Nelson:

To Mary Miller, for provisions, &c. furnished to General Lee's guard, the sum of £6 3 7=16.5 dollars:

To Jacob Frantz,[2] for horse hire, in carrying Brigadier General Woedtke's baggage to New York, the sum of £17. 16. 6=47.5 dollars:

Ordered, That the same be paid.

Resolved, That letters which are directed for any general in the continental service, commanding in a separate department, be carried free of postage, by the constitutional post.

The committee appointed to prepare instructions to George Morgan, Esq[r.] brought in their report, which being read, was agreed to as follows:

To George Morgan, Esq. agent under the Commissioners for Indian Affairs in the Middle Department.

Sir,

You are required to provide that the great belt presented to the Indians last fall at Pitsburg, be forwarded, with all convenient expedition, to the Sachems and warriors of the western nations, and

[1] In the Warrant Book this name is given Bunner.

[2] In the Warrant Book this name is given as Franks.

endeavour, to the utmost of your power, to convince them of the good wishes and good intentions of the Congress for and towards them, and to cultivate harmony and friendship between them and the white people; and to give Congress the most early intelligence of any interruption thereof, or of any disturbance which shall arise, and which you cannot quiet.

Acquaint the Indians that Congress have formed the best plan they could devise to import foreign goods for their use, and have neglected no probable means to procure them in time; and if they should not be supplied so soon as they may be wanted, the misfortune is to be ascribed to the common enemies of them and us, who, by obstructing our trade, as well as in numberless other instances, are daily injuring and distressing both; but that we have well grounded hopes of speedy relief, in expectation of which, and of greater advantages in prospect, the present inconveniencies are borne more patiently.

All differences and disputes that shall happen between the Indians and the white people, you will have adjusted and determined in the mode prescribed by a resolve of Congress, of which you have a copy: and you are directed, in a particular manner, to prevent, as much as you are able, any impositions upon the former by those who deal with them. Treat all those people, whom you may meet with, kindly and hospitably. Inspire them with sentiments of Justice and humanity, and dispose them to introduce the arts of civil and social life, and to encourage the residence of husbandmen and handicrafts men among them. Advise the Congress, from time to time, of all occurrences that may, in your opinion, deserve their attention.

The committee to whom General Washington's letter of the 15th Inst., as well as other letters, were referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration, was agreed to: Whereupon,

Resolved, That General Washington may order as many of the cannon and military stores as are not necessary for the continental fleet, and which were lately brought into New London, by the commander thereof, to any other place he may think proper; having regard only to the permission of Congress relative to the defence of the harbour of New London, a copy of which ought to be

sent to General Washington, and also a list of the cannon and stores as transmitted to Congress.

Resolved, That the resignation of James Warren, as pay master general of the army, be accepted and entered accordingly; and that he be informed that there are superintendents of the treasury appointed, to whom he is to render his accounts and vouchers.

Resolved, That another pay master general be appointed, and that the General be informed thereof.

As it appears from the certificates of four colonels of regiments at Cambridge, that the Reverend Dr. Samuel Langdon did not only perform the duty of a chaplain to their several regiments, for the space of six months, for which no other chaplain had been appointed, but also to the army at large: Therefore,

Resolved, That the said Dr. Langdon, having received no compensation for those services, be paid the sum of 300 dollars.

Resolved, That three tons of powder be immediately forwarded to Virginia, for the use of the army in the southern department.

Resolved, That General Washington be made acquainted with General Lee's request of a company of artillery, and be desired to supply him with such a company, if it may be done consistent with the general good of the service.

Resolved, That an immediate supply of arms, shoes, and blankets, be furnished for the troops in Virginia, and that some proper persons be appointed to procure them, subject to the orders of Congress already entered into.

Resolved, That Mr. Ephraim Blaine be appointed to purchase a quantity of Blankets not exceeding five thousand, ~~to be subject to the orders of Congress,~~ and also that he be directed to purchase five thousand pair of shoes, to be

sent to Virginia, to the commanding officer at Williamsburgh.

Resolved, That Monday next be assigned for the election of a pay master general.

Resolved, That Mr. Thomas Lowry, commissary, be directed to purchase and forward to General Schuyler, with all convenient despatch, two thousand barrels of pork, for the use of the army in Canada, and that he be supplied with a sum not exceeding twenty thousand dollars for that purpose, he to be accountable.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to confer with Mr. Price be directed to bring in a resolve to enable Messrs. Price and Haywood to draw for the ballance of the money ordered to be paid them by the resolutions of the 3d and 16th Instant.

Resolved, That Messrs. Du Montesson, Hervieux, La Marque, Du Massaux, Shemit, Giasson, and Gamelin, Canadian prisoners, at Bristol, be permitted to come to Philadelphia in order to purchase cloaths and other necessaries, and to remain there ten days, and then to return to Bristol.

The committee to whom were referred the letter from General Washington, of the 4th Instant, and the letter of General Schuyler, of the second ||of this month,|| brought in their report.[1]

The committee to whom the letter from Major General Schuyler, dated the second day of this instant April, was referred, having examined the matter thereof, report, that a letter be written and sent to him, acquainting him, that Congress approve the measures he hath pursued for the easy, expeditious and cheap transportation of the troops, ordered to march to Canada, with their baggage, and the artil-

[1] Another report, in the writing of Samuel Adams, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, V, folio 305. It was laid before Congress, April 25, but was not acted upon until December 30, 1776, where it is printed. See under that date.

lery stores and provisions, down the Sorrell and St. Lawrence; and are well-pleased with his behaviour towards the indians, and with his message to them, and doubt not that his vigilance circumspection and influence will frustrate the attempts of our enemies to disturb us from that quarter; and also informing him of the provision made for supplying the army in Canada with pork.[1]

The Committee on Prisoners, having collected from the journals the several resolutions of Congress respecting prisoners, with some amendments, submitted the same to Congress.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Monday.

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1776

A letter from the committee of safety of Maryland, of the 18th; also

A letter from Dr. [Robert] Boyd of the 19th; and

A letter from the committee of inspection of Lancaster, of the 11, being received, were read.

A letter from the commissioners going to Canada, dated Saratoga, of the 13th, also

A letter from General Washington, of the 19th.

A letter from General Schuyler, of the 12th, with sundry letters and papers from Canada;[2] and,

A letter from the committee of inspection of West Augusta, with two papers enclosed, being received, were referred to Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. [John] Jay, Mr. [Carter] Braxton, and Mr. [Thomas] Johnson.

[1] This report, in the writing of George Wythe, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, V, folio 307.

[2] The letter from Washington is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio, 595. That of the Maryland Committee is in No. 70, folio 5. That of Dr. Boyd is in No. 78, II, folio 45. That of the Lancaster Committee is in No. 69, I, folio 125. That from Franklin (not the Commissioners), is in No. 78, IX, folio 13. That of Schuyler is in No. 153, II, folio 101.

Resolved, That the consideration of the letter from the committee of safety of Maryland, be postponed till to morrow.[1]

||The committee appointed to prepare a resolve respecting Messrs. Price and Haywood, brought in the same: Whereupon,||

Resolved, That Messrs. Price and Haywood be empowered to draw bills of exchange on the president of Congress, for the sum of forty eight thousand three hundred and fifty eight dollars and 6 tenths of a dollar, payable the 5th of July, in specie; it being the ballance of a sum specified in a resolve of the third April instant, after deducting 16,000 dollars, for which they received an order on the treasurers the 12th. And they are further empowered to draw bills as aforesaid, for one thousand dollars, ordered to be paid them by a resolve of the 6th [16] instant.

Resolved, That the commissioners gone to Canada, be desired and empowered to settle the accounts of Messrs. Price and Haywood, to the 5th of February last, or to employ proper persons to examine the same, and compare the vouchers with the several articles of said accounts, and return a certificate to Congress of the ballance justly due to Messrs. Price and Haywood, from the United Colonies, to that date, with the vouchers for expenditures and supplies by orders of General Montgomery and General Wooster.

Resolved, That the commissioners of Congress in Canada be requested to return to Congress, a list of such persons as are accountable to the United Colonies for any part of the articles or expenditures comprised in Messrs. Price and Haywood's Accounts, with the respective sums such

[1] "Nothing is known since, in consequence of your letter and resolution to the President. We have been very much engaged, for some days, in attending to the affairs of Canada, having received late intelligence from that quarter." *Thomas Stone to Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer*, 24 April, 1776.

persons are chargeable with, and deliver copies thereof to the commanding officers, that the proper deductions may be made from the pay of the officers and men.

Resolved, That an order for 1,000 dollars be drawn on the treasurers, in favor of Mr. S[amuel] Fairlamb, for the use of Colonel Wayne's battalion, he to be accountable.

The Committee on Qualifications, having recommended Mr. Jacob Weaver, to an ensigncy in the 3d Pensylvania batallion which is vacant:

Resolved, That he be appointed, and that a commission be accordingly granted to him.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1776

A letter from Major General Ward of the 12, being received was read, repeating his desire for leave to resign,[1]

Resolved, That the resignation of Major General Ward, and of Brigadier General Fry, be accepted, and that the president inform them thereof by letter.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Robert Erwin for waggonage, the sum of £327 13 6, being 873.8 dollars:

Ordered, That the same be paid.

To John Dunn, the sum of 2,453.7 dollars, the ballance in full due to Colonel Heard's batallion, for their pay, subsistence, &c. on the expedition to Long Island.

||*Ordered*, That the same be paid.||

The Marine Committee having, agreeable to the orders of Congress, recommended gentlemen to be agents for prizes in the several colonies,

[1]This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 159, folio 360.

Resolved, That Captain John Bradford be appointed for the colony of Massachusetts bay, Daniel Tillinghast for Rhode Island, Nathaniel Shaw, Junr. for Connecticut, Jacobus Vanzantz for New York, John Nixon, and John Maxwell Nesbit for Pensylvania, William Lux for Maryland, John Tazewell for Virginia, Cornelius Harnet for Wilmington, Richard Ellis for Newbern, and Robert Smith for Edenton in North Carolina, with power to each, to appoint one or more deputies, if necessary.

The committee, to whom the letters from General Washington, General Schuyler, and the letters from Canada and Pittsburg were referred, having brought in their report, the same was taken into consideration:[1] Whereupon,

~~Resolved, that no continental Troops are exempt from being sent into Canada; but that when so sent they will receive equal Pay with those raised in the Massachusetts.~~

Resolved, that an Expedition against Detroit be undertaken.

Resolved, that proper measures be taken to send Schoolmaster, and Clergyman, Farmer and Blacksmith, to the Delawares, agreeable to the Promise of Congress.[2]

Resolved, That the president signify the approbation of Congress, to Colonel Hazen for his letter, and attention to the public good.

Resolved, That three hundred thousand dollars be immediately sent to General Schuyler, for supplying and paying the army in Canada.

~~Resolved, That ——— tons of Powder be sent to Gen. Schuyler.~~

Resolved, That the commissioners from Congress to Canada, be desired to publish an Address to the people of

[1] This report, in the writing of John Jay, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 21, folio 21. Other paragraphs were adopted on April 29, *post*.

[2] Against this paragraph is written the word "referr'd."

Canada, signifying, that Congress has been informed of injuries offered by our people to some of them: expressing our resentment at their misconduct, assuring them of our attachment to their security; inviting them to state their grievances to our commissioners, and promising ample redress to them, and exemplary punishments to the offenders.

Resolved, That instructions be sent to the commissioners, to cause justice to be done to the Canadians, agreeable to the tenor of the above resolve.

Resolved, That the commanding officer in Canada, be directed to be very attentive to military discipline, and inflict exemplary punishment on all who shall violate the military regulations established by Congress.

~~Resolved, That the said regulations are defective, and that many punishments thereby ordered, are inadequate to the ends proposed by them.~~

Resolved, That General Washington be directed to send six batallions into Canada from the army at New York.[1]

Resolved, That a letter be written by the president to General Washington, requesting his opinion whether any further additional troops are necessary to be sent for the reduction of Quebec, and for the security of Canada; and, if he shall think more troops necessary, whether they can, with safety, be spared from the army now in New York?[2]

Resolved, That if any of the troops from New Jersey or Pensylvania, which were raised at five dollars a month, be sent to Canada, they shall be allowed at the rate of six dollars and two thirds of a dollar per month, from the time they begin their march.[2]

[1] In the original report this sentence read: "as many regiments as he may think the security of the city will admit of."

[2] These two paragraphs were not in the original report, but were added in Congress.

Resolved, That the farther consideration of the report be postponed till to morrow.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,[1]

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1776

A memorial from the committee of inspection and observation of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, was presented to Congress, and read:

Resolved, That it be referred to a committee of three:

The members chosen, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, Mr. [James] Duane, and Mr. [Robert] Alexander.

Mr. R[obert] Morris reported, that in pursuance of the order of Congress, he has purchased and delivered to Mr. James Price, Bills of exchange to the amount of 3,000 pounds sterling, for which he produced Mr. Price's receipt.

Resolved, That an order for 14,800 dollars be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of Mr. R[obert] Morris, in full for the above bills of exchange.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to confer with Mr. Price, be directed to draw up instructions, for the government of Mr. Price in disposing and laying out the money put into his hands.

Resolved, That Mr. Trumbull, the commissary general, be directed to provide and forward to General Schuyler, 2,000 barrels of pork, with all possible despatch, for the use of the continental Army in Canada, and that the said commissary be supplied with a sum not exceeding 20,000 dollars for that purpose, he to be accountable for the same.

[1] A letter from Richard Butler to James Wilson, dated Fort Pitt, April 8, 1776, was read this day. It is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, II, folio 21.

Resolved, That Mr. [John] Alsop, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, and Mr. [Francis] Lewis be directed to purchase and forward, with all convenient despatch, to General Schuyler, for the use of the continental Army in Canada, 10,000 pair of shoes, and 10,000 pair of stockings; and that 15,000 dollars be advanced to them for those purposes, they to be accountable.

Resolved, That a letter be written to General Schuyler, informing him of the 10 additional batallions lately ordered for Canada, of the 4,000 ||2,000|| barrels of pork, and the 10,000 pair of shoes, and 10,000 pair of stockings, ordered by Congress to be sent to him; and desiring him to pursue the best means for furnishing such other necessary articles of cloathing and food as may be wanting for the continental Army in Canada, having regard to such of these as Mr. Price, the commissary in that province, can supply there: Also, that General Schuyler be desired to inform the president, what quantity of gun powder he has received for Canada since the first of January last, and that he continue, as hitherto, to give the earliest notice to Congress of the occasion for further supplies of this and other necessaries that may be wanting, and not in his power to procure.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to forward from Mr. Wisner's and Mr. Livingston's powder mills, five tons of powder, to General Schuyler, to be by him forwarded to Canada.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To John Gibson, agent appointed by the commissioners for Indian affairs, for sundry services in the middle department, by order of the commissioners, the sum of £141 14=377.9 dollars:

To John Davis, for waggonage for the 6th [Pennsylvania] batallion, the sum of £22 10=60 dollars:

To Furman and Hunt, for provisions, &c. for the prisoners at Trenton, the sum of £68 18 8=183.8 dollars:

To Duncan M'Donald, the sum of £5 18 5=15.8 dollars, of which sum, £5 1 11 [=13.6 dollars] ought to be charged to Captain Hendrick's company, and the sum of 16/6 [=2.2 dollars] ought to be charged to Captain Cluggage's company, for goods furnished to the said companies; and that the same ought to be paid to Ephraim Blaine, Esq[r].

To Margaret Smith, for nursing two men in the small pox, belonging to Captain Benezet's company, the sum of £9=24 dollars.

Ordered, That the above be paid.

The Congress or Convention of South Carolina having appointed delegates to represent that colony in Congress, the credentials of their appointment were presented to Congress, and read, as follows:

IN CONGRESS,
CHARLES-TOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA,
16th February, 1776.

Resolved, That Thomas Lynch, John Rutledge, Edward Rutledge, Arthur Middleton, and Thomas Heyward, Jun[r] Esqrs. be, and they are hereby appointed and fully authorized, to represent this Colony in the Continental Congress, for one Year next ensuing.

27 February, 1776.

Resolved, That Edward Rutledge, Esquire, one of the Delegates from this Colony to the Continental Congress, have Leave to return.

True Copies from the Minutes

PETER TIMOTHY, *Sec[ry].*

SOUTH CAROLINA,
IN CONGRESS,
Charles-Town 23d March, 1776.

Resolved, That the Delegates of this Colony in the Continental Congress, or a Majority of such of them as shall at any Time be present in the said Congress, or any one of the said Delegates, if no more than

one shall be present, be, and they and he are, and is, hereby authorized and empowered, for and in Behalf of this Colony, to concert, agree to, and execute every Measure, which they or he, together with a Majority of the Continental Congress, shall judge necessary for the Defence, Security, Interest, or Welfare of this Colony in particular, and of America in general.

Resolved, That another Delegate be forthwith chosen by Ballot by this Congress, to represent this Colony in the Continental Congress, in Addition to, and with as full Powers, in all Respects, as the Delegates already chosen, have, and are invested with.

The Congress then proceeded to ballot for the said Delegate,

And Thomas Lynch, Junr. Esqr. appearing to be, and being declared, duly chosen,

Resolved, That Thomas Lynch, Jun. Esqr. be, and he is hereby, appointed a Sixth Delegate from this Colony, to represent the same in the Continental Congress.[1]

A true Copy,

PETER TIMOTHY, *Secretary.*

N. B. The other five Delegates are Thos Lynch, Sen., John Rutledge, Edward Rutledge, Arthur Middleton and Thos Heyward, Junr.

C. C. P.[2]

[1] "Mr. John Rutledge acquainted the Congress that it was with the utmost concern he found himself obliged to request that they would dispense with his attendance in the Continental Congress in future; that he had many weighty reasons which rendered his request proper; but above all, that, as the American dispute was now agitated by arms, he was certain he could be of more service to his country, and the common cause at home than abroad; and that, therefore, he earnestly desired they would grant his request. He also acquainted the Congress that his brother (Edward Rutledge, Esquire) from very urgent motives, requested to be recalled." 15 February, 1776.

"The Honourable Arthur Middleton arose, declared his sensibility of, and thankfulness for, the honour that had been conferred upon him, in his appointment as a Delegate from this Colony to the Continental Congress; and that no man had better wishes, or would go greater lengths to serve his country, than himself; but that, as the infirmities of age which were creeping on, deprived him of the ability of rendering so much service to the publick as in his earlier days he might have done; so he requested that the Congress would not again appoint him as a Delegate to the Continental Congress, in the choice now to be made." Minutes of Proceedings, South Carolina Provincial Congress, 16 February, 1776. Force, *American Archives*, Fourth Series, V, 572.

[2] This is a note by Charles Cotesworth Pinckney. The original is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, South Carolina, *Credentials of Delegates*.

The Congress resolved themselves into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration that part of the letter of General Washington of the 27 of March last, relative to Nova Scotia, and the petition from some inhabitants of that colony; and after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, the committee had taken into consideration the matter referred to them, but not having time to go through the same, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration, the letter from General Washington of the 27 of March last, and the petition from the inhabitants of Nova Scotia.

The other matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1776

Two letters from General Washington, of 22 and 23, were laid before Congress, and read:[1]

Resolved, That the same be referred to a committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, and Mr. [Joseph] Hewes.

Resolved, That an order for 2,000 dollars be drawn on the treasurers in favour of Mr. E[phraim] Blaine, for the purpose of purchasing shoes and blankets for the continental troops in Virginia; he to be accountable.

The Committee on Qualifications having recommended Thomas Holland to be a second lieutenant in the Dela-

[1] These letters are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folios 603 and 611. They are printed in *Writings of Washington* (Ford), IV, 34, 39.

ware batallion, in the room of James M'Donnough, deceased, and John Corse, ensign, in the room of Thomas Holland,

Resolved, That they be accepted, and that commissions be granted to them accordingly.

The committee, to whom the petition of Noah Phelps, was referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration, was agreed to; Whereupon,

Resolved, That the committee of inspection of the city of Albany, be requested to adjust Mr. Noah Phelps's account of services performed at Ticonderoga; and that Mr. Noah Phelps be allowed and paid for his farther services, including those of contractor from the time of his joining General Montgomery, at the rate of one dollar for each day, until he quitted the service, and an equivalent to a captain's rations during said time, provided he has not already received them; the latter account to be settled by General Schuyler, who is requested to pay to the said Noah Phelps, what may appear to be due to him for the whole of his services as aforesaid.

The committee, to whom the letter from Lord Stirling, of the 10 of March last, with the papers therein enclosed, was referred, brought in their report, which was read:

Ordered, To lie on the table.

On application from the committee of Lower Penn's Neck, in the county of Salem, in New Jersey,

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to sell to the said committee, 75 lb. of powder.

Resolved, That a copy of the ||intercepted|| letter from Mr. John Butler, at Niagara, of the 29 of February last, to Mr. Alexander McGee, be sent to General Schuyler.

Resolved, That a copy of the report of the committee appointed to enquire into the truth and foundation of the story, That the Indians have been invited by Governor

Penn to come to Philadelphia, be sent to General Schuyler; and that General Schuyler be directed to cause the person to be arrested, who pretended to have carried such an invitation to the Indians.

The Committee to whom Mr. Deane's Letter to General Schuyler was refer'd beg Leave to report, that they have taken the only Step which in their opinion could lead to an ~~Knowledge~~ Investigation of the ~~Fact asserted in by~~ Subject matter therein contained waited on his Hon. Governor Penn, who has assured them that his Name has been used without his ~~knowl~~ Consent or Privity, that he has sent no Message whatever to the Six Nations, ~~and~~ nor had he ever a thought of ~~requesting~~ desiring the Six Nations to come to Philadelphia.[1]

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

On two bills for the expences of General Lee's guard, the sum of £4. 1=10.8 dollars; and that the same ought to be paid to Timothy Matlack:

On a draught drawn by Ephraim Blaine, Esq[r] on the Commissioners for Indian Affairs in the middle department, in favour of Samuel Semple, the sum of £28 18=77 dollars, for expences of the said commissioners, and that the said sum ought to be paid to Robert Miller, Esq[r] of the county of Cumberland:

For subsistence of Ar: Hill Brice, Captain of the 7th regiment of foot, or royal fusileers, the sum of £14 16 3 =39.5 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Thomas M'Kean, Esq[r] and charged to the said captain:

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration, the letter from General Washington of the 27 of March last, &c.; and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that the committee had taken into consid-

[1] This report, in the writing of Edward Rutledge, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, II, 29.

eration the matter referred to them, and had come to a resolution.

The report from the committee being read,

Resolved, That it be postponed.

Information being given to Congress, that Allan Cameron, who is confined in gaol, is in such a state of health as to require the attendance of a physician, and that he is desirous of the assistance of Dr. Cadwalader:

Resolved, That Dr. Cadwalader have leave to attend him.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1776

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to settle and repay to the colony of Connecticut, the powder lent ||by the said colony|| to General Washington, for the use of the continent, and to do what in their judgment is best for the public Interest, and the benefit of Connecticut, in exchanging the powder which said colony has in the city of Philadelphia, ||for powder in the eastern ports belonging to the continent.||

Resolved, That the sum of 50,000 dollars be sent to the committee of safety of Virginia, and that the president ~~accompany it with a letter,~~ write to the said committee, requesting them to use their utmost endeavours to have it exchanged into specie, and remit the same to the continental treasurers; and, in case they can procure more specie, that they send it, and draw for the amount on the pay master in Virginia, who is ordered to pay such draughts.

Resolved, That the sum of 250,000 dollars be sent to the pay master in Virginia, for the use of the continental troops, he to be accountable.

A letter from Dr. [Thomas] Cadwalader giving an

account of Allan Cameron's state of health, was laid before Congress, and read:[1] Whereupon,

Resolved, That the said A. Cameron be allowed the benefit of air in his room, and of walking an hour every morning in the yard, in company or presence of the gaoler, and that his uncle, Dr. M'Clean, from New York, who is now in Philadelphia, be allowed to converse with said Cameron in the presence of the gaoler.

Edmund Randolph, who was appointed ||deputy|| muster master ||general|| of the Southern department, having been chosen by the citizens of Williamsburg, to represent them in Convention, and an ordinance having been passed, excluding all persons holding any military post of profit from a seat therein, begged leave to resign his office:

Resolved, That the resignation of Mr. Randolph be accepted.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to take into consideration the state of the eastern department, and report thereon:

The members chosen, Mr. [Edward] Rutledge, Mr. [Thomas] Johnson, Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, and Mr. [James] Duane.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Dr. Robert Johnson, for attendance on the 6th battallion, and for medicines, the sum of £19 18 6 = 53.1 dollars.

Ordered, That the said account be paid.

The committee, to whom the letters from General Washington of the 22 and 23, were referred, brought in their report, which was read: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the pay of the aids de camp of the commander in chief, be raised to forty dollars a month each.

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, V, folio 33.

Resolved, That none of the troops already raised, be, for the present, disbanded for want of arms; and that the General apply to the convention, and committee of safety of New York, for such arms, as may have been collected under the resolve of Congress, for disarming non-associators and disaffected persons, or any other arms they can supply, and that they be delivered to the New York troops.

Resolved, That Mr. Baldwin, the assistant engineer, ordered to Canada, be allowed, in consideration of his merit, the pay and rank of lieutenant colonel on the continental establishment.

Resolved, That the respective governments from whence militias have come for the defence of the city of New York, be desired speedily to transmit to Congress, authenticated muster rolls, and accounts of monies due to such respective militias, in order to their being imme diately settled and discharged.

Resolved, That this Congress approve the assistance given by the General to Commodore Hopkins.

Resolved, That the farther consideration of the report be referred till to morrow.

Congress then took into consideration the report of the committee on the petition of Colonel James Easton: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the claims of the persons concerned in the surprize and reduction of the fortress of Ticonderoga, having already been submitted by Congress to the committee of Albany, the petitioner being referred to the said committee of Albany for a settlement of his demand on that account.

As from the testimonials produced by the petitioner, it appears—that he and his batallion behaved with great diligence, activity, and spirit in the successful enterprize

against General Prescot, and the vessels and troops under his command, in the river Sorel, in which important service they were joined by Colonel Bedel and a part of his regiment—that to encourage the party employed in that important service, the late Major General Montgomery promised them all the public stores which should be taken in the vessels under General Prescot's command, excepting ammunition and provisions; And, as the petitioner alledges that no part of those stores was delivered, nor any composition made to the troops concerned in the acquisition; Therefore,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the general commanding in Canada, to appoint commissioners to estimate all the public stores taken with General Prescot, (except ammunition and provisions) and pay the value thereof among the officers and men employed in that service, in such proportions as the commissioners shall determine.

As the petitioner's account of monies received, and disbursements made by him for the use of his regiment, on which he claims a ballance, can, for want of proper vouchers and information here, only be adjusted in Canada, where the business was transacted,

Resolved, That the same be referred for settlement in such mode as the Commissioners from Congress, in that province, shall direct; But, as the petitioner is in want of money,

Resolved, That 200 dollars be advanced to him in part of his demand against the United Colonies.

With regard to the petitioner's request, that a court of enquiry may be called respecting the charge against him and Major Brown, for plundering the effects of the prisoners:—As Brigadier General Arnold in his letter of the 1st of February last alledges, that the petitioner and Major Brown had been publickly accused of plundering the officers'

baggage, taken at Sorel, contrary to the articles of Capitulation, and to the great scandal of the American arms; for which reason, he declared it to be his opinion, that it would give great disgust to the army in general, if either of them should be promoted until these matters were cleared up; and, as the petitioner asserts his innocence, declaring that he neither plundered, nor directed, nor was privy to the plundering of any prisoner or other person whatever: considering, therefore, on the one hand, the aggravated nature of this charge, which is an impediment to the petitioner's promotion, and, on the other, the great confidence reposed in him by General Montgomery. and the essential service which the petitioner has rendered to his country:

Resolved, That the Commissioners from Congress, in Canada, be instructed to cause enquiry to be made by a court martial, or otherwise, into the charge against the petitioner, giving him an opportunity of making his defence; and that the proceedings thereon be transmitted to Congress, in order that Justice may be done to the petitioner, if he has been accused without sufficient reason.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1776

Resolved, That an order be drawn for 350 dollars on the treasurers in favour of Mr. Edy;[1] for services of himself and his companion, Isaiah Beaudreau, viz, 250 to himself, and 100 for his attendant.

Sundry letters and papers from North Carolina were laid before Congress and read, viz.

[1] In the Warrant Book this name is given as Eddy.

An affidavit of Thomas Higgins and James McClery touching the capture of Captain [W.] Ginn's brig.

A letter from Samuel Johnson, president of the convention of North Carolina, of the 10 instant, enclosing resolves of said convention of the 9th, 10th and 13th of the same month, and an extract of a letter from General Moore.

Resolved, That the affidavit be delivered to the Secret Committee:

That the other papers be referred to a committee of three:

The members chosen, Mr. [James] Duane, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, and Mr. [Robert] Alexander.

The Congress then proceeded to the election of a pay master general, in the room of Mr. Warren, whose resignation was accepted; and the ballots being taken, and examined,

William Palfrey, Esq^{r} was elected.

Resolved, That a muster master be elected in the room of Mr. Edmund Randolph, whose resignation was accepted.

The ballots being taken and examined,

William Yates was elected.

The Congress proceeded to the election of a deputy commissary general, for supplying the troops in Virginia with rations, &c.; the ballots being taken, and examined,

William Aylett, Esq^{r} was elected.

Resolved, That Mr. [Cæsar] Rodney and Mr. [George] Read be added to the committee appointed to contract for supplying the troops in the barracks at Philadelphia, and the batallion in the lower counties on Delaware.

A memorial from the committee of safety of Pensylvania was presented to Congress and read.[1]

[1] This memorial is in the *Pennsylvania Archives*, First Series, IV, 735.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Monday.[1]

MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1776

Sundry Letters and papers being received, were laid before Congress and read, viz.

A letter from General Washington of the 25th, enclosing a return of the army at New York:

A letter from Major Wrixon, declining to accept the commission of chief engineer:

A letter from the council of safety of Maryland, with the examination of Alexander Ross, and sundry papers found in his possession:[2]

Resolved, That the letter from General Washington and the letter from the council of safety of Maryland, with Mr. Ross's papers, be referred to a committee of five:

The members chosen, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. [Edward] Rutledge, Mr. [Robert] Goldsborough, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, and Mr. [Cæsar] Rodney.

A letter from General Lee of the 19th, was received and read.

[1] "The Congress having been informed of a very extraordinary oath ordered by Governour Tryon to be administered to passengers in the late packet, whereby they bound themselves not to disclose anything relative to American affairs except to the Ministry, have appointed a Committee (of which I am one) to ascertain this fact.

"I must therefore request of you, gentlemen, to appoint proper persons to examine into this matter, and, if possible, ascertain the truth of the report, by affidavits taken before the Mayor, or one of the Judges of the Superior Court." *John Jay to the New York Committee of Safety*, 27 April, 1776. Force, *American Archives*, Fourth Series, V, 1092. See p. 273 *ante*.

[2] The letter of Washington is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 618. It is printed, in part, in *Writings of Washington* (Ford), IV, 44. The letter of E. Wrixon is in No. 78, XXIII, folio 273. That of the Council of Safety of Maryland is in No. 70, folio 25.

A letter from Thomas Bullit and a petition from Dr. J. Potts, was presented to Congress and read.[1]

Resolved, That they be referred to the foregoing committee.

Resolved, That letters be written by the president to General Schuyler and the committee of safety of New York, desiring them to inform this Congress, whether the continental commissions sent to them for the officers of the troops raised by Connecticut the last campaign, were delivered, or offered to them, or any, and which of them; and whether any, and which of them accepted or refused, the same? and particularly, whether commissions were offered to Colonel Waterbury and Colonel Easton, and whether they refused accepting them?

Resolved, That Captain Peter Adams, from Maryland, under whose custody Alexander Ross was brought to this city, be dismissed, and that the said Alexander Ross be delivered to the care of the officer commanding the continental troops in Pensylvania.

Resolved, That a standing committee of five be appointed for Indian affairs;

That the appointment be deferred till to morrow.

Resolved, That the Congress, relying on the integrity and honor of Captain [A.] M'Gee, order, that he be permitted to go at large, on giving his parole to the committee of West Augusta, not to engage or be concerned in any measures injurious to these colonies, by stimulating the Indian nations to make war against them, or otherwise.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Benjamin Marshall, for tin cartouch boxes, the sum of £174 18 0=465 dollars:

[1]The letter from Lee is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 158, folio 45. The petition of Dr. Potts is in No. 78, XVIII, folio 56. That of Bullitt is in No. 78, II, folio 71.

To Ephraim Blaine, Esq[r] the sum of £1,026 0 5=2,736 dollars for subsistence, waggonage, and ferriages of the 6th [Pennsylvania] batallion:

Ordered, That the above be paid.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on the letters from General Washington of the 19th, &c.[1] Whereupon,

Resolved, That the papers from Fort Pitt be referred to the committee appointed to consider the state of Indian affairs in the middle department, and that the said committee be instructed to prepare a plan of an expedition against Fort Detroit, and an estimate of the expence.[2]

Resolved, That no Traders ought to go into the Indian country without licence from the agent in the department; and that care be taken by him to prevent exorbitant prices for goods being exacted from the Indians.

Resolved, That a ton of powder be sent to Mr. [G.] Morgan, to be distributed to such Indians as the agent shall be convinced are in our interest.

Resolved, That measures be immediately taken to procure goods to supply the Indians at the treaties ordered to be held with them.[3]

Resolved, That the Line between the Indians and these Colonies, agreed upon at Fort Stanwix, ought to be adhered to, and no Surveys or Encroachments made of their Lands. ~~And that the late Attempt to survey Montours Island on the Ohio, is unjustifiable and ought immediately to be cancelled.~~

Resolved, That the councils of Massachusetts bay and New Hampshire, and the governors of Connecticut and Rhode Island, be earnestly requested to take the most speedy and effectual measures to collect as much hard

[1] See note under April 23, p. 301 *ante*.

[2] This paragraph is not in the original report.

[3] These paragraphs are taken from the report presented April 23, p. 301 *ante*.

money in their respective colonies as possible, send the same, as collected, to General Schuyler, and draw upon the president of the Congress for the amount.

~~Resolved, that Mr. Price repair to Canada immediately.~~

Resolved, That the farther consideration of the report, and the several matters to this day referred, be postponed till to Morrow.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1776

A letter from Allan Cameron and a letter from John Smyth of the 29, were presented to Congress and read.[1]

Agreeable to the order of yesterday, the Congress proceeded to the election of a committee for Indian affairs, and the ballots being taken and examined,

Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. [James] Wilson, Mr. [Oliver] Wolcott, Mr. L[ewis] Morris, and Mr. [Edward] Rutledge, were chosen.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Matthew Swan, for carrying two brass field pieces from Philadelphia to Williamsburgh, the sum of £35 2 2 =93.6 dollars, over and beside the sum of thirty pounds [=80 dollars] paid him by Robert Erwin, and the sum of four pounds Virginia currency [=13.3 dollars] paid by the committee of Williamsburg:

For house rent, carriage, and other contingent expences of the fourth Pensylvania batallion, the sum of £134 9 4 =358.6 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to John Harper, quarter master of the said batallion:

For provisions for Captain Ross's company, supplied by Charles Jackson, the sum of £3 18 8 light money=9.1

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, V, folio 37. That of Smyth is in No. 78, XX, folio 25.

dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Timothy Matlack.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

The Committee to whom was referred the memorial of the committee of inspection and observation for the city and liberties of Philadelphia, praying the advice of Congress whether they ought to continue the exercise of the power of regulating the price of goods in other instances than that of green tea, brought in their report, which, being taken into consideration, was agreed to: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the ninth article of the association, which enjoined the inhabitants of the United Colonies to sell goods and merchandises at the rates they had respectively been accustomed to do for twelve months then last past, was, in its nature, a temporary regulation respecting the goods then on hand; But as those goods are nearly consumed, and a further supply must be obtained at an extraordinary risk and expence, and it is reasonable that adventurers should be encouraged by a prospect of gain adequate to the danger which may be incurred in the importation, and a free trade being now opened from the United Colonies to all parts of the world except the dominions belonging to the King of Great Britain,

Resolved, That the power of committees of inspection and observation to regulate the prices of goods, (in other instances than the article of green Tea,) ought to cease.

Ordered, That the above be published.[1]

The Congress took into consideration the report of the Committee on General Washington's letter of the 24 of March: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the vessels which were left in the docks and harbour at Boston, by the enemy, and which different

[1] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 8 May, 1776.

persons claim as their property, ought to be restored to their former owners, being inhabitants of these colonies, on their making proof of their title, unless the said parties so claiming, shall have been voluntarily active against the rights of the United Colonies, by affording aid and assistance to the British fleet and army; And that it be recommended to the government of Massachusetts bay to appoint commissioners to hear such claims, and determine on the sufficiency of the proof thereof:

Provided, That any person apprehending himself or herself to be aggrieved by the adjudication of the commissioners, may appeal from their sentence to the Congress, such appeal being demanded and lodged with the secretary of Congress, within the times limited, and the appellant giving security, in the manner prescribed in the case of an appeal from the sentence of a court appointed for hearing maritime causes.

Resolved, That the further consideration of the report be postponed.

Resolved, That an order for 2,000 dollars be drawn on the treasurers in favour of George Evans, who has contracted to supply the Delaware batallions with rations, he to be accountable.

The Delegates from New Jersey having laid before Congress a number of bills counterfeited to imitate the continental bills of credit,

Resolved, That a committee of six be appointed to consider of this matter, and report thereon to Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. W[illiam] Livingston, Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. [Carter] Braxton, and Mr. [James] Duane.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Thursday.

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1776

A letter from the committee of secrecy, war, and intelligence, of North Carolina, of the 22d of April, enclosing a list of prisoners sent by them to Philadelphia;[1]

A letter from General Washington, of the 30th of April, enclosing a memorial from Governor Cooke;[2] and

A letter from the committee of safety of New York to the delegates of said colony, dated 29 of the same month, being laid before Congress and read:[3]

Resolved, That the letter from General Washington, with the memorial enclosed, be referred to the committee appointed to take into consideration the state of the eastern colonies.

Resolved, That a letter be written to General Schuyler, desiring him, in case Major Douglass declines to take the command of the vessels on the lakes, that he appoint Captain Wyncoop to that command, and inform Congress thereof by the first opportunity.

Resolved, That an order for twenty thousand dollars be drawn on the treasurers in favour of James Mease, commissary, for the use of the Pensylvania battalions, he to be accountable.

A letter from Henry Fisher, of Lewistown, dated May 1st, and directed to the committee of safety of Pensylvania, and by them sent to Congress, was read;

Resolved, That the commanding officer of the Delaware batallion, be directed to station thirty five men, with an officer, at the False Cape, till farther orders.

[1] This letter and list are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 72, folio 7.

[2] The letter of Washington is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 630. It is printed in *Writings of Washington* (Ford), IV, 57.

[3] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 67, I, folio 208.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to send two hundred weight of powder, and 200 lb of Lead, to Lewis town, for the use of the companies stationed there.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Dr. William Curry, for account of medicine and attendance for the fourth Pensylvania batallion, the sum of £21 17 6 = 58.3 dollars.

Ordered, That the said account be paid.

The committee, to whom were refered the papers laid before Congress by the delegate from North Carolina, brought in their report, ||which was read:||

Ordered, to lie on the table.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on General Washington's letter of the 24th of March last; and after some debate, thereon,

Resolved, That it be recommitted;

As the gentlemen who brought in the report are absent,

Resolved, That a new committee of three be appointed.

The members chosen, Mr. [John] Dickinson, Mr. W[illiam] Livingston, and Mr. [Edward] Rutledge.

Resolved, That it be recommended to that branch of the council of safety of the Delaware government, residing in Kent county, to furnish the commanding officer of the Delaware batallion, with as many of the public arms of that county as may be sufficient for arming the companies of the said batallion, stationed at Lewistown, to be used by them till otherwise ordered by the said branch of the council of safety.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1776

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To David Williams for waggon hire. the sum of £42 0 0 =112 dollars:

Ordered, That the said account be paid.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to send two hundred pounds of Peruvian Bark to the commanding officer in Virginia, for the use of the continental forces in the southern department.

A petition from Peter Simon was presented to Congress and read:[1]

Resolved, That it be referred to a committee of three:

The members chosen, Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, Mr. [George] Wythe, and Mr. J[ohn] Adams.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to sell 300 lb. of powder, to Hendrick Vanbrunt and Thomas Littel, for the use of the inhabitants of the township of Shrewsbury, to enable them to defend ~~themselves and their property~~ their sea coast.

The committee appointed to prepare an estimate of the expence of an expedition against Fort Detroit, brought in their report. Whereupon the Congress took into consideration the report on the letter from General Washington, of the 19th, &c; and after some debate the farther consideration thereof was postponed.

The Congress then took into consideration the report of the committee on the letter from Lord Stirling, dated the 18 of March last; which was agreed to; Whereupon,

Resolved, That the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Ogden, of the first batallion of New Jersey, was made upon good grounds, the Congress having reserved and

[1] This petition is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 42, VII, folio 3.

frequently exercised the right of promoting men of distinguished merit:

That the commissary, Mr. Lowry, be directed to supply such of the soldiers of said batallion, as desire it, with uniforms, the cost to be deducted from their pay:

That as the army is now removed from Cambridge to New York, the consideration of raising a regiment of Artillery for the service in that city, as applyed for in the said letter, be postponed till further advice may be received from General Washington, or the commanding officer there.

A petition from Captain Oswald [Oswell] Eve was presented to Congress and read:[1]

Resolved, That the same be referred to a committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, Mr. [William] Floyd, and Mr. [Jonathan Dickinson] Sergeant.

Resolved, That an order for 20,000 dollars be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of Colonel John Haslet, for the use of the Delaware batallion ||under his command,|| he to be accountable.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to send 300 lb. of powder, and a proportionable quantity of lead, to Lewistown, for the use of the troops stationed there.

The committee, to whom was recommitted the report on General Washington's letter of the 24th of March last, brought in their report, which was read:

Ordered, To lie on the table.

~~A motion being made and seconded for fixing the time for holding a treaty with the Indians in the middle department,~~

[1] This petition, dated March 22, 1776, was addressed to the Committee of Safety of Pennsylvania, and by that body referred to the Congress. It is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 42, II, folio 378.

~~Resolved, That the propriety of fixing the time for holding a treaty with the Indians in the middle department, be taken into consideration to morrow.~~

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1776

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Dr. David Cowell, the sum of £36 10 9=97.4 dollars.

Ordered, That the above account be paid.

A letter of yesterday, from Colonel Hand, of the riffle batallion, being laid before Congress and read;[1]

Resolved, That an order for 4,000 dollars be drawn on the treasurers in favour of Colonel Hand, for the use of his batallion, he to be accountable.

Resolved, That the letter from Colonel Hand be referred to a committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. [George] Read, Mr. [Jonathan D.] Sergeant, and Mr. [Samuel] Huntington.

The Congress taking into consideration the letter of the 29 of April, from the committee of safety of New York: Whereupon,

Resolved, That a major be appointed for the first New York batallion, in the room of Major Benedict, who has resigned:

The ballots being taken and examined,

Barnabas Tuthill, was elected.

A letter from General Wooster, dated Holland House, before Quebec, dated 10 April;

A letter from General Schuyler, dated Fort George, 28th of the same month enclosing examination of Michael Ryan:

[1] This letter, which was addressed to Andrew Allen is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 159, folio 398.

A letter from Governor Trumbull, of the 27 of same month, enclosing a letter from N. Shaw, Junr. with a list of the cannon left at New London.[1]

Resolved, That the marine committee be directed to lay on the table, on Monday next, the instructions given by the naval committee to Commodore Hopkins, upon his leaving this port.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report on the letter of General Washington of the 24 of March: Whereupon,

Resolved, That all the cannon, and other stores, in Boston, which were originally purchased and provided by and at the expence of the colonies of Massachusetts bay and New Hampshire, be considered as belonging to the colony that so purchased and provided them; and that all the other cannon left in the colony of Massachusetts bay, by the British forces, be presented to the said colony:

The farther consideration of the report, at the request of a committee [colony,] was postponed till Monday next.

The Congress then took into consideration the report of the committee on the letter from General Washington of the 4th of April: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the pay of the officers and soldiers of the militia, lately called to Cambridge, commence on the day of their march, and cease on that of their return.

Resolved, That the farther consideration of the report be postponed.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Monday.[2]

[1] The letter of Wooster is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 161, folio 305. That of Schuyler is in No. 153, II, folio 121. That of Trumbull is in No. 66, I, folio 161.

[2] A letter of Washington, dated April 23, was read in Congress this day. It is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, 614.

MONDAY, MAY 6, 1776

Captain Young, who was fitted out at the expence of the continent, by Messrs. Lewis and Alsop, being arrived at Egg Harbour,

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to give proper orders for landing, securing and bringing to Philadelphia the cargo imported by Captain Young.

A memorial of [Captain] Hermann Allen being presented to Congress, and read:

Resolved, That it be referred to the Committee of Claims.

Congress resumed the consideration of the report on General Washington's letter of the 24 of March; and, thereupon, came to the following resolution:

[Whereas] General Washington having requested directions concerning the conduct that should be observed towards commissioners, said to be coming from Great Britain to America,

Resolved, That General Washington be informed, that the Congress suppose, if commissioners are intended to be sent from Great Britain to treat of peace, that the practice usual in such cases will be observed, by making previous application for the necessary passports or safe conduct, and on such application being made, Congress will then direct the proper measures for the reception of such commissioners.[1]

[1] "It will be observed how long this trifling business had been depending, but it cannot be known from the Journal how much debate it had occasioned. It was one of those delusive contrivances, by which the party in opposition to us endeavored, by lulling the people with idle hopes of reconciliation into security, to turn their heads and thoughts from independence. They endeavored to insert in the resolution ideas of reconciliation; we carried our point for inserting peace. They wanted powers to be given to the General to receive the commissioners in ceremony; we ordered nothing to be done till we were solicited for passports. Upon the whole,

The committee appointed to bring in a resolution, whereby persons resident, or having property in America, who assist any of the enemies of these United Colonies in the captures of vessels or goods, may be made liable to make good the damages to the sufferers, brought in their report which was read:

Ordered, To lie on the table.

A letter of the 24th of April, from General Lee, was laid before Congress and read.[1]

The Congress then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their consideration, the state of the United Colonies; and after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that the committee have taken the same into consideration and have come to sundry resolutions, which he laid before Congress || was ordered to report when the house should be ready to receive them.

Ordered, That the report be now delivered in.||

The report of the committee being read,||was agreed to as follows:||

Resolved, That ten millions of dollars be raised for the purpose of carrying on the war for the current year:

Resolved, That the Indian goods said to be at Fort Pitt, be purchased for the use of the United Colonies:

we avoided the snare, and brought the controversy to a close, with some dignity. But it will never be known how much labor it cost us to accomplish it.

"Then a committee of the whole, on the state of the colonies. Mr. Harrison reported sundry resolutions, which, as they stand on the Journal, will show the art and skill with which the General's letters, Indian affairs, revenue matters, naval arrangements, and twenty other things, many of them very trivial, were mixed, in those committees of the whole, with the great subjects of government, independence, and commerce. Little things were designedly thrown in the way of great ones, and the time consumed upon trifles which ought to have been consecrated to higher interests. We could only harangue against the misapplication of time, and harangues consumed more time, so that we could only now and then snatch a transient glance at the promised land." John Adams Autobiography, *Works*, III, 43.

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 158, folio 49.

Resolved, That Indian goods to the value of ten thousand dollars, be purchased at Montreal, for the use of the United Colonies:

Resolved, That treaties be held with the Indians in the different departments, as soon as practicable; and that the sum of ten thousand dollars be paid out of the treasury, to the commissioners of each respective department, for presents to the Indians and the expences of such treaties.

||Mr. Harrison further reported, that the committee desired him to move for leave to sit again: Whereupon,||

Resolved, That this Congress will, to morrow, again resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the state of the United Colonies.

Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed to devise ways and means for raising the ten millions of dollars, voted above:

The members chosen, Mr. [James] Duane, Mr. R[obert] Morris, Mr. [Edward] Rutledge, Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee, and Mr. [Joseph] Hewes.

Resolved, That the convention, or committee or council of safety of Virginia, be empowered to appoint surgeons to the batallions raised in said colony, for the service of the continent.

Resolved, That John Taylor be appointed Judge Advocate to the continental troops in the colony of Virginia.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 1776

A letter of the 5 of May from General Washington:

A letter of the 14th April from John G. Frazer, with lists of the vessels, cannon, and ordnance stores left by the enemy at Boston:

A letter from a number of prisoners at Hartford, in Connecticut, of the 21 March, 1776;

A letter from Le F. of St. Eustace, dated 5 [1] April, being laid before Congress and read:[1]

Resolved, That the said letters be referred to a committee of three:

The members chosen, Mr. S[amuel] Adams, Mr. [Carter] Braxton, and Mr. [James] Duane.

A petition from John Bayard, P. Moore, and John Patton, was presented to Congress and read:||Whereupon,||

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to sell to the petitioners 600 lb. of powder, for the use of the privateer they are fitting out.

Resolved, That one hundred dollars be paid by the treasurers to Mons[r] Giasson, a Canadian prisoner, upon his giving a bill upon his friend at Montreal for the like sum, payable on demand.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on the papers laid before Congress by the delegates of North Carolina: Whereupon,

Resolved, That another batallion raised, in North Carolina, in addition to the five batallions already ordered for the defence of that colony, be taken into the pay and service of the United Colonies:

That a deputy quarter master general be appointed for the southern department, to be employed in North Carolina:

That the Secret Committee be directed to procure and forward twelve field pieces for the use of the troops in North Carolina:

[1] The letter of Washington is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 638. It is printed in *Writings of Washington*, (Ford) IV, 59. That of Frazer is in No. 78, IX, 17. That of the prisoners is in No. 78, XVIII, folio 55. That from Le F. is in No. 58, folio 349.

That the Secret Committee be directed to forward three tons of gun powder for the defence of the said colony:

That the Committee on Qualifications be directed to purchase a chest of medicines and instruments, equal in value to those furnished for the Pennsylvania regiments, and forward the same to North Carolina, for each of the six batallions raised in that colony.

The Congress proceeded to the election of a deputy quarter master general for the southern department to be employed in North Carolina; and the ballots being taken,

Nicholas Long, Esq^{r} was elected.

Resolved, That Nicholas Long, Esq^{r} have the rank of a Colonel in the army of the United Colonies.

The convention of North Carolina having recommended sundry gentlemen for field officers of the six batallions raised in that colony, ||Congress proceeded to a choice,|| and the ballots being taken the following gentlemen were chosen:

Francis Nash, Esq^{r} Colonel, Thomas Clarke, Esq^{r} Lieutenant Colonel, William Davis, Esq^{r} Major, of the first batallion.

Alexander Martin, Esq^{r} Colonel, John Patton, Esq^{r} Lieutenant Colonel, John White, Esq^{r} Major, of the second batallion.

Jethro Sumner, Esq^{r} Colonel, William Alston, Esq^{r} Lieutenant Colonel, Samuel Lockart, Esq^{r} Major, of the third batallion.

Thomas Polk, Esq^{r} Colonel, James Thackston, Esq^{r} Lieutenant Colonel, William Davidson, Esq^{r} Major, of the fourth batallion.

Edward Buncombe, Esq^{r} Colonel, Henry Irwin, Esq^{r} Lieutenant Colonel, Levi Dawson, Esq^{r} Major, of the fifth batallion.

Alexander Lillington, Esq^r Colonel, William Taylor, Esq^r Lieutenant Colonel, Gideon Lamb, Esq^r Major, of the sixth batallion.[1]

Resolved, That the letter received yesterday from General Lee, be referred to the committee to whom the letters received this morning were referred.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to purchase stockings for the troops in Canada, be directed to apply to the general assemblies of Massachusetts bay and Connecticut, and request them to assist in procuring said stockings.

The Congress took into consideration the memorial from the committee of safety of Pensylvania; Whereupon,

Resolved, That twenty of the heaviest cannon, taken by Commodore Hopkins, at New Providence, and brought from thence to New London, and since carried to Newport, be brought to the city of Philadelphia, and delivered to the committee of safety of Pensylvania, for the defence and protection of said city; to remain there during the pleasure of Congress.

William Peachy, colonel of the 5th Virginia batallion, having resigned, the Congress proceeded to elect a gentleman to supply his place; and, the ballots being taken,

[1] "I urged the necessity of taking your light Horse into their service, but could not prevail on them to do it, no colonies having been yet allowed to raise any on Continental pay, it is said they are very expensive Troops and of little use in this Contest. I am informed a Company or two were raised in South Carolina, but being found by experience to be too expensive the Horses were discharged and the men turned into the ranks of foot Regiments. I had it not in charge from you to make application for any Powder or Medicines, but apprehending they would be wanted I took the liberty to apply for them, the three Tons of Powder in Twenty five barrels went off yesterday, in three Waggons for Halifax, the Medicines will be sent off next week. I hope these matters will meet the approbation of your Congress; should you want Drums, Colours, Shoes, Stockings and Blankets for your Soldiers I believe some might be procured here, Cannon fitt for field pieces cannot be purchased at any price, before the resolution passed in Congress to procure and send Cannon, or I had received your Orders, I had done my utmost to get them." *Joseph Hewes to Samuel Johnston*, 16 May, 1776. *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, X, 605.

Charles Scott, Esq[r] was elected; and,

Alexander Spotswood was also elected Lieutenant Colonel of the second batallion, in the room of Charles Scott, promoted.

Resolved, That such of the iron cannon, as were brought from Ticonderoga to Boston, and have not been removed by General Washington, be lent for the defence of the town and harbour of Boston, to remain there during the pleasure of Congress.

The order of the day and the matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1776

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To William Brady for thirty days waggonage in conveying Captain Stevenson's baggage from Virginia to Roxbury, the sum of 60 dollars; and that the same ought to be paid to Daniel M'Pherson.

To James M'Donnell,[1] for waggonage, in conveying baggage belonging to Captain Talbot's company of the sixth Pensylvania batallion, to New York, the sum of £44 4 46 = 117 9/10 dollars:

Ordered, That the said accounts be paid.

A letter of the 5 from General Washington;

A letter of the 4 from William Palfrey, pay master general;

A letter of the 2 from Captain De la place, a prisoner, were laid before Congress and read:[2] also

A petition from Captain Gideon Warren, and a letter from Joseph Woodward, chairman of the committee of

[1] In the Warrant Book this name is McDonald.

[2] The letter of Washington is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 657. It is printed in *Writings of Washington*, (Ford) IV, 64. That of Palfrey is in No. 165, folio 416. That of William Delaplace is in No. 78, VII, folio 35.

the New Hampshire grants, were presented to Congress, and read:

The orders given by the Naval Committee to Commodore Hopkins. being laid before Congress, and read,

America:

To Esek Hopkins, Esquire,

Commander in Chief of the Fleet of the United Colonies.

Sir,

The United Colonies directed by principles of just and necessary preservation against the oppressive and cruel System of the British Administration whose violent and hostile proceedings by Sea and land against these Unoffending Colonies, have rendered it an indispensable duty to God, their Country and Posterity to prevent by all means in their Power the ravage, desolation and ruin that is intended to be fixed on North America. As a part and a most important part of defence, the Continental Congress have judged it necessary to fit out several Armed Vessels which they have put under your Command having the strongest reliance on your Virtuous Attachment to the great cause of America and that by your Valour, Skill and diligence, seconded by the Officers and Men under your Command our unnatural Enemies may meet with all possible distress on the Sea. For that purpose you are instructed with the utmost diligence to proceed with the said Fleet to Sea and if the Winds and Weather will possibly admit of it to proceed directly for Chesepeak Bay in Virginia and when nearly arrived there you will send forward a small swift sailing Vessel to gain intelligence of the Enemies Situation and Strength. If by such Intelligence you find they are not greatly superiour to your own you are immediately to Enter the said bay search out and attack, take or destroy all the Naval force of our Enemies that you may find there. If you should be so fortunate as to execute this business successfully in Virginia you are then to proceed immediately to the Southward and make yourself Master of such forces as the Enemy may have both in North and South Carolina in such manner as you may think most prudent from the intelligence you shall receive; either by dividing your Fleet or keeping it together.

Having compleated your Business in the Carolina's you are without delay to proceed Northward directly to Rhode Island, and attack, take and destroy all the Enemies Naval force that you may find there. You are also to seize and make prize of all such Transport Ships and

other Vessels as may be found carrying Supplies of any kind to or any way aiding or assisting our Enemies.

You will dispose of all the Men you make prisoners in such manner as you may judge most safe for North America and will least Retard the service you are upon. If you should take any Ships or other Vessels that are fit to be Armed and Manned for the Service of the United Colonies you will make use of every method for procuring them to be thus equipped. You will also appoint proper Officers for carrying this Matter into execution and to Command said Ships as soon as they can be made ready for the Sea. For this purpose you will apply so the several Assemblies, Conventions and Committees of Safety and desire them in the name of the Congress to aid and assist you by every way and means in their power for the execution of this whole Service.

Notwithstanding these particular Orders, which 'tis hoped you will be able to execute, if bad Winds, or Stormy Weather, or any other unforseen accident or disaster disable you so to do You are then to follow such Courses as your best Judgment shall Suggest to you as most useful to the American Cause and to distress the Enemy by all means in your power.

You are to consider these as your instructions until you shall receive further or other Orders from the Continental Congress or Committee of Congress appointed for such purpose.

You are also authorized to draw on the Continental Treasurers wherever you may be for such Sums as are absolutely necessary for the use of the Fleet under your Command, and such drafts shall be duly honored.

Given under our hands at Philadelphia, Jan^{y} 5th 1776. By order of Congress.

STEP HOPKINS
CHRIS GADSDEN
SILAS DEANE
JOSEPH HEWES

A true Copy
pr Sam^{l} Lyon Sec^{y} to the
Comm^{r} in Chief.[1]

Resolved, That they be referred to a committee of seven; ~~and that the said committee be directed to consider the appropriation of the cannon taken by Commodore~~

[1] This copy is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 58, folio 239. See *Journals*, December 22, 1775.

~~Hopkins~~[1] and Also, to consider the situation of the governor and lieutenant governor of Providence, and the other officer, brought from thence, and report what, in their opinion, is proper to be done with them:

The members chosen, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, Mr. [James] Duane, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, and Mr. [William] Livingston.

Resolved, That the letters from General Washington and William Palfrey, and Captain De la place be referred to a committee of 5.

The members chosen, Mr. S[amuel] Adams, Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. [Cæsar] Rodney, Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee, and Mr. [William] Whipple.

Information being given to Congress, that Kirkland, a prisoner, has broke gaol and made his escape,

Resolved, That a committee of 3 be appointed to devise ways and means to have him retaken:

The members chosen, Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, and Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry.

Resolved, That the Letter from Joseph Woodward be referred to a committee of five, and that they be directed to hear the persons mentioned in said Letter and report to Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. [Cæsar] Rodney, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, and Mr. [Robert] Alexander.

Resolved, That whenever it shall appear to this Congress, that any officer or officers, bearing continental commissions, shall have departed from orders, that an enquiry shall be made.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to sell

[1] See entry under May 22, 1776.

to Aaron Biddle and John Helm, 75 lbs. of powder, for the use of the inhabitants of Upper Penns Neck, in New Jersey.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the state of the colonies; and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that they have had under consideration the matters referred to them, but not having come to any resolution thereon, have desired him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to morrow, again resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the state of the United Colonies.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1776

A letter of the 8th, from Ab. Livingston, offering to resign the contract made with the convention of New York, for supplying the troops, in that colony, with provisions; also,

A letter of the same date from [Colonel] James Easton, being laid before Congress, and read:[1]

Resolved, That they be referred to a committee of three:

||The members chosen,|| Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, Mr. S[amuel] Adams, and Mr. [George] Wythe.

Application being made for a safe conduct for Mrs. Bellew, wife of Captain Bellew, of the *Liverpool*, to pass through the country to her relations in Marblehead,

[1]The Livingston letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XIV, folio 71. That of Easton is in No. 78, VIII, folio 249.

Resolved, That Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee and Mr. R[obert] Morris be a committee to take this matter into consideration.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Wm. Bedford, for cartouch straps, the sum of £72 10=193.3 dollars.

To Colonel Jos. Reed, for camp equipage, &c. procured for General Washington, the sum of £162 16 5=434.2 dollars:

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

The said committee to whom the petition and account of Captain Herman Allen, were referred have made report thereon:

Resolved, That the said petition and accounts be referred to the Committee on the Treasury.

The Committee on Prisoners, to whom a letter from Henry Beaumont, of the 26 regiment of the King of Great Britain, (which said Henry Beaumont is a prisoner of war,) was referred, brought in their report, ||which was taken into consideration:|| Whereupon,

Resolved, That said Henry Beaumont be permitted to reside with his wife and family at Elizabeth town, in the colony of New Jersey, he giving to the committee of inspection and observation of said Borough, his parole, in the form prescribed by Congress.

The committee appointed to devise ways and means for raising ten millions of dollars for the service of the current year, brought in their report, which was read and considered: Whereupon,

Resolved, That five millions of dollars be emitted in bills of credit, in part of the ten millions of dollars voted for the service of the current year:

That the thirteen United Colonies be pledged for the redemption of the said five millions of dollars, at such

periods, and in such manner and proportions as Congress shall hereafter direct and appoint.

Resolved, That it be referred to the superintendents of the treasury, to consider of and report a plan for carrying into effect the before mentioned resolution for emitting five millions of dollars in bills of credit, towards the service of the current year.

The committee having informed Congress that they have not had time to compleat their report:

Resolved, That they have leave to sit again.

Captain Budden having been taken by the *Liverpool* Man of War, and permitted, on his parole, to come to Philadelphia, in order to procure a prisoner to be given in exchange for him,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to consider the propriety of exchanging seamen:

The members chosen, Mr. R[obert] Morris, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, and Mr. [Samuel] Huntington.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the state of the United Colonies; and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that they have had under their farther consideration the matter referred to them, and have come to a resolution, which he was ready to report.

The report from the committee of the whole Congress being read, the same, at the request of a colony, was postponed till to morrow.

The committee to whom the application in favour of Mrs. Bellew ||was referred,|| brought in their report, which being read and agreed to: Whereupon,

Resolved, That a passport be granted to Mrs. Bellew to come to the city of Philadelphia, under escort of a conti-

nental officer, and that she may reside safely and unmolested in the said city, until her friends in New England come to escort her to Marblehead, when safe conduct shall also be granted to her for that journey, and for her residence there during her pleasure.

The order of the day being renewed, and the several matters to this day referred, [being] postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1776

A letter of the 7, from General Washington, and

A letter of the 3, from Thomas Cushing, Esq[r] being received, and read:[1]

Resolved, That they be referred to the committee on the state of the eastern colonies.

A letter from Monsieur Docaisor of the 6 of April, being laid before Congress and read:

Resolved, That it be referred to the Secret Committee.

The committee to whom were referred the consideration of the letter from General Washington, of the 5th, and the papers enclosed, brought in their report, which was read and agreed to: Whereupon,

Resolved, That a copy of the resolutions passed the first day of April last, establishing the mode of settling the public accounts, be transmitted to the General:

That the resolution of Congress, of the 17th of January last, allowing ten shillings=one dollar and one third of a dollar to the officers, in lieu of expences for inlisting each soldier, being a general regulation, extends to the troops raised in the eastern department; and that the general be directed to make that allowance for all the troops inlisted since the time of passing the said resolution:

[1] The letter of Washington is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 663. That of Cushing is in No. 66, I, folio 79.

That, as the road recommended by General Washington to be opened between the town of Newbury, on Connecticut river, and the colony of Canada, will facilitate the march and return of the troops employed in that quarter, and promote the public service, the General be directed to prosecute the plan he has formed, respecting the said road:

That ten tons of gun powder be sent to New York:

That 400,000 dollars be sent to the pay master general for the use of the army in New York and the Massachusetts bay:

That the commanding officers in the different departments and posts, shall make monthly returns to the commander in chief of the continental army, of the number and state of the troops, and the military stores in their respective departments:

That this Congress has hitherto exercised, and ought to retain the power of promoting the officers in the continental service according to their merit; and that no promotion or succession shall take place upon any vacancy, without the authority of a continental Commission.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the report from the committee of the whole, which being read was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the respective assemblies and conventions of the United Colonies, where no government sufficient to the exigencies of their affairs have been hitherto established, to adopt such government as shall, in the opinion of the representatives of the people, best conduce to the happiness and safety of their constituents in particular, and America in general.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare a preamble to the foregoing resolution:

The members chosen, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. [Edward] Rutledge, and Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to sell to Colonel David Potter, and Captain Daniel Maskell, 200 lbs. of powder, and 1,000 lbs. of lead for the use of the inhabitants of Bridge town, Cumberland county, in New Jersey.

The committee to whom were referred General Washington's letter of the 25 and 26 of April, the case of Alexander Ross, and the letter from General Lee, brought in their report, which was read. Also,

The Committee to whom was referr'd General Washington's Letter of the 25th and 26th of April, the case of Mr. Ross, and the Letter from Genl. Lee, have had the same under Consideration, and beg Leave to report as their Opinion:

R. 13.[1] *Resolved*, that all Vessels which sailed from the Port or Harbour of Boston whilst the Town of Boston was in Possession of the Enemy, having on board Effects belonging to the Enemies of American Liberty, be liable (together with the said Effects) to seizure and confiscation. And that if any of the said Vessels have been already taken they, together with their said Cargo, be decreed forfeited and be confiscated in the same Manner and in the same Proportions as have been heretofore resolved by Congress.

R. 14. That it is essential to the Interest of these Colonies, that the Continental Agent in the respective Provinces where no Courts ~~of Admiralty~~ have been established for the Trial of Captures, have Power and be directed to dispose at Public Sale of such Articles, being of a perishable Nature, as shall be taken from the Enemies of America, and that the Money to arise from such Sale be liable to the Decree of the Court, when the said Court shall be established.

That the Inventory of the Ordinance Stores taken by Captain Manly be sent down to Genl Washington, and that he be requested to appoint a Person on the part of the Colonies to join one on the part of Captain Manly and his Crew, who shall, having first taken an Oath for that Purpose, proceed to Value the sd Stores so taken, and that if they cannot agree as to the Value, they call in a third person to determine the case, that the Report of such person be made to Congress, so

[1] These figures correspond to those used in the Jefferson report, printed June 17, p. 453, *post*.

soon as may be, and that the Value of the Shares that shall appear to belong to Captain Manly and his Crew be transmitted them.

W. 11. That the Pay of such of the Soldiers at New York as have been enlisted at 5 Dollars per month be raised to Six Ds. & 2/3 d. ~~and that such of the troops from the N. England Colonies as shall re-enlist during the War, or for the Term of 3 Yrs, be furnished at the Continental Expence with the following Articles,~~ vizt:

~~That it is highly inexpedient to order any more Troops from the Colony of New York. That the Difficulty and uncertainty of procuring Fire Arms render it improper to raise any more Regiments at present, but~~

W. 13a. That the Commander in Chief for the time being in the N. York Department have Permission and be directed to call to the Assistance of that Colony (when Necessity shall require it,) such of the Militia of that and the Neighbouring Colonies of Connecticut and N. Jersey as shall be sufficient for the Purpose intended.

W. 13b. That Letters be wrote to the Conventions of New Jersey N. York and the Assembly of Connecticut, to afford such Assistance to the Commandg Officer in the N. York Department as he shall apply for.

R. 6b. That two of the Companies of the Force now in ~~this Colony~~ the Delaware Govt. be ordered to Cape May.

G. 6. That Dr. Potts be taken into the Pay of the Continent and be employed in the Canada Department or at Lake George as the Genl ~~Schuyler~~ shall think fit. But that this Recommendation be not considered so as to supersede Dr. Stringer. That the Pay of Dr. Potts be Dollars per Mo.

~~That they have examined Mr. Alexander Ross, and [not] having found any thing in his Conduct which will warrant his Confinement, recommend that he be discharged.~~[1]

The committee appointed to take into consideration the state of the eastern department ||colonies,|| brought in their report, which was read.

That a Recommendation be immediately sent to the Colony of Massachusetts to assist the Officers of the five Continental Regiments now in that Colony in compleating their Enlistment, that they endeavour

[1] This paragraph is marked "agreed," and is printed below. The report, in the writing of Edward Rutledge, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, VI, folio 201. Although the product of the special committee appointed April 29, it was embodied in the report of the Committee of Conference.

to prevail on their People to enlist, and those already enlisted to re-enlist for 3 years, unless sooner discharged, and then to receive a mo. pay; and as an Enducement thereto they allow to the soldiers who shall agree to serve for that term the following Articles: 1 Felt hat, 1 pr. yarn Stockings, 1 pr. Shoes.

That Genl. Washington be desired to send such Genl. Officer as he can spare from the Army at New York to command in the Colony of Massachusetts Bay.

That Genl. Washington be desired to continue Mr. Burbeck the Engineer at Boston, for the Purpose of fortifying that Port and Harbour.[1]

The Congress then resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, to take into their farther consideration the state of the [United] Colonies; and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that the committee have had under their farther consideration the matter referred to them, but not having yet had time to finish their enquiries, desire leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will, on Monday next, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the state of the United Colonies.

Resolved, That the Committee of Secret Correspondence be directed to lay their proceedings before Congress on Monday next, withholding the names of the persons they have employed, or with whom they have corresponded.

The committee appointed to consider the propriety of exchanging seamen, brought in their report, which was agreed to: Whereupon,

Resolved, That Lieutenant Ball, of the *Roebuck*, and the three seamen that were taken with him, and are now prisoners in the lower counties ||on Delaware,|| be exchanged for Captain Budden and his son, Seth Davis, and Samuel Conyers:

[1] This report, in the writing of Edward Rutledge, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 21, folio 19. The first paragraph is printed under May 11, p. 347, *post*.

That six of the seamen now prisoners in the city of Philadelphia, to be named by the committee of safety ||of Pennsylvania,|| may be given up in exchange for the following persons, viz. Mr. Lightbody, James Hage, ——— Fortescue, a pilot boy; William Martin, Jacob Wilson, and John Durry:

That the said exchange of prisoners be conducted by such proper person as the committee of safety of Pensylvania may appoint for that purpose.

The committee, to whom was referred the letter from Mr. Abraham Livingston, offering to cancel the contract he had made with a committee of the convention of New York, for supplying the forces in that colony with provisions, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration; and thereupon,

Resolved, That Mr. Livingston, in voluntarily resigning a contract which might have been so profitable to him, has exhibited an example of public spirit, and the Congress accept the resignation of his contract.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to devise ways and means for retaking Moses Kirkland, be empowered to send an express to the southward, and desire the committees or councils of safety of the southern colonies, to use their utmost endeavours to have him apprehended, and that they offer a reward of one hundred dollars, in addition to the hundred already offered, for apprehending and securing said Kirkland.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee of safety of Pensylvania, to examine into the conduct of the gaoler, who had the charge and custody of Moses Kirkland, and if they find him culpable, that they have him removed.

Resolved, That George Morgan, Esq^{r} Agent under the commissioners for Indian affairs in the middle depart-

ment, be directed to purchase the Indian goods, said to be at Fort Pitt, for the use of the United Colonies.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee to whom was referred the case of Alexander Ross; Whereupon,

Resolved, That he be discharged from confinement.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1776

A petition from John Jacobs, in behalf of himself and others, being before Congress, and read:

Resolved, That it be referred to a committee of 3.

The members chosen, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. [[1]] Lee, and Mr. [Edward] Rutledge.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on the Eastern department ~~and after some debate thereon,~~

~~Resolved, That it be referred to a committee of the whole.~~ ||state of the eastern colonies||; Whereupon,

Resolved, That the two batallions, directed by the assembly of Rhode Island to be raised, be taken into continental pay; the batallion ordered to be raised in November last, from the time they were armed, cloathed, and fit for duty; and the one since ordered to be raised, from the present time; provided they be armed, cloathed, and fit for service; and that, if they be not so armed and appointed, they be taken into continental pay, as soon as they shall be armed and mustered:

Resolved, That the remainder of the report be referred to a committee of the whole Congress.[2]

Resolved, That the standing committee for Indian affairs be directed to take measures for carrying into execution

[1] Probably Richard Henry Lee.

[2] For the remainder of the report, see under May 10, *ante*.

the resolution of the 6th, for holding a treaty with the Indians, in the different departments, as soon as practicable.

That the 20th day of July be fixed on for holding a treaty, at Pittsburg, with the Indians, in the middle department; and that the standing committee be directed to inform the Agent, and desire him to notify the Indians, and invite them to attend at the time and place mentioned: and also, that the said committee inform the commissioners, and desire them to attend.

Resolved, That John Harvey be appointed a commissioner for the Indian affairs in the middle department.

Certain resolutions of the board of officers in Philadelphia, and a petition from the committee of privates of the military association of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, were presented to Congress, and read:

Resolved, That they be referred to a committee of the whole Congress.

A memorial from Caunier de la Berthaudure was presented to Congress, and read:

Ordered, To lie on the table.

Resolved, That two sets of trepanning instruments be sent to Virginia for the use of the surgeons of the continental troops there; and that two sets of trepanning instruments, and 100 lb. of Peruvian bark, be sent to North Carolina, for the use of the continental troops in that colony.

The Congress then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the report of the committee of ||the state of the colonies in|| the eastern department, and the resolves ||of the officers,|| and petition ||of the committee of privates of the military association of the city and liberties of Philadelphia;|| to them

referred; and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that the committee have had under consideration the matters to them referred, and have come to a resolution thereon; which he was ready to deliver in, but that not having yet come to a conclusion, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

The report from the committee of the whole being read,

Resolved, That consideration thereof be postponed to Monday next.

Resolved, That this Congress will, on Monday next, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the report of the committee on ||the state of the colonies|| in the eastern department, and the resolves from the board of officers, and the petition from the committee of the privates of the associators of the city and liberties of Philadelphia.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to send 500 lb. of powder to the committee of safety of Delaware government, for the use of their militia.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

On account rendered by the committee for the upper district of Frederic county, in Virginia, of expences incurred by Captain John Nelson's company of rifflemen, the sum of £530 15 4=1415.4 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Michael Fackler, and that the said company ought to be charged with the sum of £381 0 3= 1016 dollars, the amount of riffles and goods, &c. furnished for their use, the remainder, being for provisions and waggonage, to be charged to the continent.

To Andrew M'Nair for attendance and for candles, &c. the sum of £68 4 6=181.9 dollars, in full of his account to 30th of April last:

To Robert Erwin, waggon master, for five teams that went to Canada, a ballance of £262 7 0=699.6 dollars:

To Walter Drummond, for nursing several persons belonging to Captain Benezet's company, the sum of £10 3=27 dollars:

To George Loudon, for 34 days waggonage for the 6th Batallion, the sum of £41 1 4=117.5 dollars.

Ordered, That the said accounts be paid.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Monday.

MONDAY, MAY 13, 1776

A letter from General Washington, of the 9th was laid before Congress and read:

Resolved, That it be referred to the Committee on Qualifications.

Sundry petitions were presented to Congress and read, viz. One from Benjamin Church, accompanied with one from Benjamin Church, Samuel Church and Edward Church, and a certificate from three Doctors ||respecting the health of Dr. B. Church;|| one from John Connolly and John Smith, accompanied with a letter from Dr. [Thomas] Cadwalader:[1]

Resolved, That they be referred to the Committee on Prisoners.

A letter from George Morgan Esq[r] May 3 [at Pittsburg,] was read, and referred to the standing Committee on Indian affairs.

Resolved, That Mrs. Connolly the wife of John Connolly have leave ~~at proper seasons~~ to visit her husband in gaol.

Agreeable to order, the committee of Secret Correspondence laid before Congress a state of their proceedings.

[1] The petition of Connolly is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, V, folio 39. That of Smyth is in No. 78, XX, folio 29. That of Cadwalader is in No. 78, V, folio 43.

The committee appointed to prepare a preamble to the resolution of Congress passed the 10th instant, brought in a draught, which was read, and postponed till to morrow.

A letter of the 4th from Edmund Pendleton, president of the committee of safety of Virginia, was laid before Congress, and read.[1]

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To A. C. Hanson, for the expences of two gentlemen, a private soldier, and a servant, on an expedition to New York, the sum of £28 12 10=76.4 dollars:

To Rachel Stille, for boarding prisoners now in Trenton, and including Captain Chase's bill of £3 3 10=[8.5] dollars, and also a bill for waggonage, amounting to £2 9=[ ] dollars, the sum of 290.9 dollars.

To Robert Erwin, waggon master, for waggonage of powder from Egg harbour to Philadelphia, the sum of £92 12 9=247 dollars:

To Frederic Bicking, for paper for the continental bills of credit, the sum of £416=1109.3 dollars:

To Gunning Bedford, deputy muster master general, for his pay and expences to the 17th of April last, the sum of £170 16 9=455.6 dollars:

Ordered, That the said accounts be paid.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report from the committee of the whole; and, after some debate, the determination thereon, at the request of a colony, was postponed till to morrow.

The several matters to this day referred, being farther postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 71, I, folio 29.

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1776

A letter from General Washington, of the 11 May enclosing sundry papers; a letter of the 3d from General Schuyler, a letter of the 9 from Daniel Robertson, ||were laid before Congress, and read:||[1]

Resolved, That they be referred to a committee of three:

The members chosen, Mr. W[illiam] Livingston, Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson, and Mr. J[ohn] Adams.

The committee to whom the petition of Dr. Benjamin Church, now confined in gaol in Norwich, in the colony of Connecticut, and also a petition from Benjamin, Samuel, and Edward Church, together with a certificate from physicians, respecting the dangerous state of the aforesaid Dr. Church, were referred, brought in their report, which was read and agreed to: Whereupon,

Resolved, That Dr. Benjamin Church be sent to the colony of Massachusetts bay, and that the council of the said colony be requested to take a recognizance from him, with two good sureties, in such penalty as they shall think sufficient, not being less than one thousand pounds, lawful money, for his appearance before such court as shall be erected for his trial, and at such time and place as such court shall direct, and to abide the judgment of the same; and that they be farther requested, to take his parole, not to hold any correspondence with the enemies of the United Colonies, or at any time, to depart out of the same colony, without their license; and that, upon the performance thereof, the said Dr. Benjamin Church be set at Liberty.

[1] The letter of Washington is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 669. It is printed in *Writings of Washington*, (Ford) IV, 74. That of Schuyler is in No. 153, II, folio 129. That of Robertson, Captain of the Royal Regiment of Emigrants, is in No. 78, XIX, folio 25.

The colony of Rhode Island, having appointed two delegates to represent that colony in Congress, the Credentials of their appointment were laid before Congress, and read, as follows:

(L. S.) The governor and Company of the English Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in General Assembly convened.

To Stephen Hopkins and William Ellery, Esqs. Greeting:

Whereas this Assembly, reposing special Trust and Confidence in your Abilities and Integrity, have appointed you, the said Stephen Hopkins and William Ellery, Delegates, to represent this Colony in General Congress; you are, therefore, hereby empowered to join with the Delegates of the other United Colonies, in Congress, at Philadelphia, as soon as conveniently may be, or at such Time and Place as shall be agreed upon by the Major Part of the Delegates from the said Colonies.

You are also authorized and empowered to consult and advise with the Delegates of the said Colonies in Congress, upon the most proper Measures for promoting and confirming the strictest Union and Confederation between the said United Colonies, for exerting their whole Strength and Force to annoy the common Enemy, and to secure to the said Colonies their Rights and Liberties, both civil and religious, whether by entering into Treaties with any Prince, State, or Potentate, or by such other prudent and effectual Ways and Means as shall be devised and agreed on; And, in Conjunction with the Delegates from the said United Colonies, or the Major Part of them, to enter into and adopt all such Measures, taking the greatest Care to secure to this Colony, in the strongest and most perfect Manner, its present established Form, and all the Powers of Government, so far as relates to its internal Police and Conduct of our own Affairs, civil and religious.

You are also instructed and directed, to exert your utmost Abilities, in carrying on this just and necessary War, in which we are engaged against cruel and unnatural Enemies, in the most vigorous Manner, until Peace shall be restored to the said Colonies, and their Rights and Liberties secured upon a solid and permanent Basis.

You are also empowered, to join with the Major Part of the Delegates to the said United Colonies, in adjourning, from Time to

Time, and to such Place or Places as shall be thought proper for and during One Year.

You have it in express Charge to make immediate Application to Congress to put the Colony Brigade upon the Continental Establishment; and to defray the Expences of it, from the first Inlistment of the Troops, as that Number is indispensably necessary for the Defence of the Colony, which is utterly unable to support them.

And as it may happen, that from Sickness or other necessary Causes, one of you may be absent from Congress, in all such Cases the other is hereby as fully empowered to represent the Colony, as though both were present and agreed in Sentiment.

May 4th, 1776.

In Behalf of the General Assembly, I have hereunto set my Hand, and caused the Seal of the Colony to be affixed, the Sixth Day of May, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

NICHOLAS COOKE, *Governor.*

By his Honor's Command,

HENRY WARD, *Secretary.*

The committee, to whom the letter from General Washington of the 5th, and the letter from Captain Delaplace of the 2d, &c. were referred, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration; Whereupon,

Resolved, That as a number of arms, fit for use, may be bought of the owners, who may incline to sell them, General Washington be desired to employ such an agent as he hath proposed, to go into any of the colonies for that purpose:

That a copy of the letter from Captain Delaplace be sent to Major General Schuyler, and that he be desired to enquire how the things, therein mentioned to have been left by him [De la place] at Ticonderoga, were disposed of, and what was the value thereof, and report the matter, as it shall appear to him, to Congress:

That the case of Captain Delaplace is not distinguishable from that of other prisoners of war, who are obliged to refund the expences of their maintenance.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to deliver to Colonel Jacob Ford, Junr three tons of salt petre, to be by him manufactured into gun powder for the use of the United Colonies, on the same terms as others have agreed to manufacture it:

That the said committee be directed to sell to Joseph Ellis, 400 lb. of powder, and a quantity of iron ball, sufficient for 900 lb. of powder, for the defence of the colony of New Jersey:

That the said committee be directed to deliver to Colonel Bird, 200 lb. of powder, to prove the cannon he has made for the United Colonies.

That the committee appointed to contract for the making cannon, be directed to employ proper persons to attend and see the cannon proved:

That an order for 2000 dollars be drawn on the treasurer, in favour of said committee appointed to contract for the making of cannon; they to be accountable.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report from the committee of the whole: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the five batallions, now in Massachusetts bay, be recruited to their full complements, and that three additional batallions be raised in the eastern department, for the service of the continent, the recruits to be taken into continental pay, so soon as they shall be armed and mustered.

A letter from General Lee of the 7th, enclosing sundry papers, was laid before Congress, and read:[1]

Resolved, That the same be referred to the committee to whom a former letter of General Lee, was referred.

Martin Strobach, lieutenant of marines on board the *Hornet* sloop, finding the service by sea to disagree with him, and apprehending he can be of more use in the land

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 158, folio 53.

service, begs permission to be discharged from the present service he has engaged in, that he may apply for a lieutenancy in the Pensylvania artillery company, where there is a vacancy, which he is encouraged to make application for:

Resolved, That leave be granted to discharge him.

The Congress agreeable to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee of the whole Congress, to take into their farther consideration, the report of the committee on the eastern department, the resolves from the officers, and petition from the committee of privates of the military association of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that the committee of the whole Congress have had under consideration the matters to them referred, and have come to sundry resolutions; but, not having come to a conclusion, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

The report from the committee of the whole, being read, was agreed to: Whereupon,

Resolved, That an additional Major General and Brigadier General be appointed in the continental army:

Resolved, That General Washington be directed to order a major general forthwith to take the command in the eastern department, and also that he order a brigadier general on that service.

Resolved, That the election of the major general and brigadier general be postponed till to morrow.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the resolves of the officers and the petition from the committee of privates of the military association of the city and liberties of Philadelphia.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee, to whom the letter from the committee of safety of New Hampshire, and other papers from that colony, were referred; and, thereupon,

Resolved, That one batallion be raised in New Hampshire for the service of the United Colonies, and paid and subsisted upon the same terms as the continental troops in the eastern department; the said batallion to be taken into continental pay, so soon as they shall be armed and mustered.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to send to General Washington, the muskets that are at Newport.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1776

Resolved, That the committee of safety of Pensylvania be desired to write to the committee of safety of Delaware government, to suspend the execution of the resolve of Congress, for exchanging Lieutenant Ball for Captain Budden, till farther orders.

The Congress took into consideration the draught of the preamble brought in by the committee, which was agreed to as follows:

Whereas his Britannic Majesty, in conjunction with the lords and commons of Great Britain, has, by a late act of Parliament, excluded the inhabitants of these United Colonies from the protection of his crown; And whereas, no answer, whatever, to the humble petitions of the colonies for redress of grievances and reconciliation with Great Britain, has been or is likely to be given; but, the whole force of that kingdom, aided by foreign

mercenaries, is to be exerted for the destruction of the good people of these colonies; And whereas, it appears absolutely irreconcileable to reason and good Conscience, for the people of these colonies now to take the oaths and affirmations necessary for the support of any government under the crown of Great Britain, and it is necessary that the exercise of every kind of authority under the said crown should be totally suppressed, and all the powers of government exerted, under the authority of the people of the colonies, for the preservation of internal peace, virtue, and good order, as well as for the defence of their lives, liberties, and properties, against the hostile invasions and cruel depredations of their enemies; therefore, resolved, &c.

Ordered, That the said preamble, with the resolution passed the 10th instant, be published.[1]

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to sell to Edward Keasby, 100 lb. of powder, for the use of the inhabitants of Salem county, in New Jersey.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1776

A letter from the commissioners of Congress in Canada, dated Montreal, May 1;

Also a letter from General Schuyler, of the 10th; also

A letter from General Washington, of May [15], enclosing a letter ||to him from|| Dr. Stringer.[2]

Resolved, That the letter from Dr. Stringer to General

[1] This preamble was drawn up by John Adams. Autobiography, *Works*, III, 46. It is printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 22 May, 1776.

[2] The letter of Washington is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 685. It is printed in *Writings of Washington* (Ford), IV, 80. That of Schuyler is in No. 153, II, folio 133. That of the Commissioners in Canada is in No. 166, folio 17.

Washington, be referred to the committee appointed to prepare medicine chests:

That the other letters be referred to Mr. W[illiam] Livingston, Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson, and Mr. J[ohn] Adams.

Resolved, That the president write to General Washington, requesting that he will repair to Philadelphia as soon as he conveniently can, in order to consult with Congress upon such measures as may be necessary for the carrying on the ensuing campaign.

Resolved, That George Morgan, Esq[r] be empowered to draw for a sum not exceeding six thousand dollars, to pay for the goods he is ordered to purchase, and for defraying incidental charges; the same to be paid out of the ten thousand dollars voted for the commissioners of Indian affairs in the middle department.

Whereas Captain Richard Butler, by accepting the office of agent in the middle department of Indians, has lost the opportunity of being appointed a captain in the continental service;

Resolved, That the Congress will, as soon as possible, compensate for that disappointment to him, by some promotion in their service.

The Congress proceeded to the election of a Major General and Brigadier General in the continental Army; when, the ballots being taken and examined,

Horatio Gates, Esq[r] was elected Major General;[1]

Thomas Mifflin, Esq[r] Brigadier General.

Resolved, That Mr. [James] Duane be added to the standing committee for Indian affairs.

A petition from Joseph Carson and Joseph Donaldson, was presented to Congress, and read:

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to sell the petitioners 50 lb. of powder.

[1] See John Adams, Autobiography, *Works*, III, 46.

Resolved, That two of the additional batallions, ordered on the 14 to be raised in the eastern department, be raised, in Massachusetts bay, and the other in Connecticut:

That it be recommended to the general assemblies of Massachusetts bay and Connecticut, to endeavour to have the batallions inlisted for two years, unless sooner discharged by Congress; in which case, the men to be allowed one month's pay on their discharge; but, if the men cannot be prevailed on to inlist for two years, that they be inlisted for one; and that they be ordered, as soon as raised and armed, to march immediately to Boston.[1]

The committee, to whom the letters from General Washington of the 25 and 26 April, and the case of Alexander Ross, and the letter of General Lee, were referred, brought in their report, which was read.[2] Also,

The committee to whom the letter from General Wash-

[1] "The truth is, I never opposed the raising of men during the war. I was always willing the General might obtain as many men as he possibly could, to enlist during the war, or during the longest period they could be persuaded to enlist for, and I always declared myself so. But I contended that I knew the number to be obtained in this manner would be very small in New England, from whence almost the whole army was derived. A regiment might possibly be obtained, of the meanest, idlest, most intemperate and worthless, but no more. A regiment was no army to defend this country. We must have tradesmen's sons, and farmers' sons, or we should be without defence; and such men certainly would not enlist during the war, or for long periods, as yet. The service was too new; they had not yet become attached to it by habit. Was it credible that men who could get at home better living, more comfortable lodgings, more than double the wages, in safety, not exposed to the sicknesses of the camp, would bind themselves during the war? I knew it to be impossible. In the Middle States, where they imported, from Ireland and Germany, so many transported convicts and redemptioners, it was possible they might obtain some. Let them try. I had no objection. But I warned them against depending on so improbable a resource for the defence of the country. Congress confessed the unanswerable force of this reasoning. Mr. McKean, I remember, said in Congress, 'Mr. John Adams has convinced me that you will get no army upon such terms. Even in Pennsylvania, the most desperate of imported laborers cannot be obtained in any numbers upon such terms. Farmers and tradesmen give much more encouragement to laborers and journeymen.' Mr. McKean's opinion was well founded, and proved to be true in experience, for Pennsylvania never was able to obtain half the complement of New England in proportion." John Adams, Autobiography, *Works*, III, 48.

[2] This report was brought in May 10, and is printed under that date.

ington of the 11, and the letter from General Schuyler of the 3d, and one from Captain Robertson of the 9th, with other papers, were referred, brought in their report, which was read.

The Committee to whom were referred a Letter from General Washington of the 11 of May instant, a Letter from General Schuyler of the 3d of May, and one from Capt. Daniel Robertson of the royal highland emigrant Regiment of the 9th of May, Beg Leave to report, that having considered the said Letters with their Inclosures, and other papers therein referred to, they came to the following Resolutions, vizt:

W. 10.[1] *Resolved*, That it is the Opinion of this Committee that General Washington be authorized to fill up Vacancies in the Army by issuing Commissions to such officers under the rank of Field officers, as he shall think proper persons to supply the vacancy; he informing the Congress once every month of such appointments, which shall be deemed good and valid, unless disapproved of by Congress on such Information; and that blank Commissions be sent to the General for that purpose.[2]

W. 9. *Resolved*, That it is the Opinion of this Committee that Lieut. Colo. Burbeck be dismissed from the continental Service.[3]

Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that it would be a great Saving to the united Colonies and prevent many Inconveniences resulting from the present manner of keeping and providing for Prisoners to have a Commissary for Prisoners appointed for each of the three Departments, to superintend and take the Direction and supplying of such Prisoners, as have already fallen, or may hereafter fall into our hands during the Course of the War, as nearly conformable as the Circumstances of this Country will admit of, to the Custom of ~~England and France~~ other civilized Nations ~~described in an Inclosure in his Excellency's Letter, a Copy of which the Committee are of opinion ought to be transmitted to every General in the continental Army.~~[4]

[1] These letters and figures correspond to those used in the Jefferson report, printed June 17, 451, *post*.

[2] "Not determined" in margin.

[3] "Agreed" in margin.

[4] This paragrph is striken out, and in margin is written "Referr'd to Com^ee.^" The minute on treatment of prisoners was as follows: "It is the Custom in England and France, to send every person, Soldier or Sailor, under the Degree of a Commission'd Officer to some Inland Place, where there is an Old Castle, commonly surrounded with a High Stone Wall; and often times with a Moat, Comprehending a

R. 4. *Resolved*, That it is the Opinion of this Committee that there be raised for the service of the united Colonies, one Battalion of Germans.[1]

R. 12. That Prisoners made from the enemy by Continental Arms be not exchanged by any authority but the Continental Congress.[2]

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Saturday.[3]

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1776

A letter from General Washington, of the 17 and three letters from the commissioners in Canada, of the 6th, 8th and 10th, being received were read.[4]

Resolved, That the committee, to whom the letter from the commissioners of the 1st, &c. were referred, be aug-

pretty large Space of Ground, where they are confined as in a Debtors Jail, with a Strong Guard of Militia, without Side, surrounded with Sentrys; where they are maintained by a Commissary who Contracts for their Support. The Officers, are sent upon their parole, to some Inland Town, as far distant as possible, from their Men, where they are allowed to Negotiate their Bills of Exchange, but are confin'd in Jail upon Non payment, Cartels for Exchanges of Prisoners, are allways settled between State and State, at War: but in the last War, between England and France, such Cartel was not settled until the latter End of it. England having seized so many prisoners before the Declaration of War, that France had no Equivalent to Exchange, or consider'd it as an Act, contrary to the Law of Nations; and would not until Oblig'd by necessity, submit to a Cartel; which, at length was settled by General Conway. An Account is kept in Europe, of the Expence of Maintaining pris:rs of War by Both States, which is Settled and the Balance paid at the Peace. England ought to be Oblig'd to Acknowledge us as an Independent State, at least so far as respects prisoners of War. Otherwise the treatment she shews to Our Soldiers or Seamen in her hands, ought to be exactly Observed upon Our part, to these we take Prisoners from them."

[1] "Agreed" in margin.

[2] This report is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, VI, folio 205. The last paragraph is in the writing of Richard Henry Lee, and all the other paragraphs are in the writing of William Livingston. It bears an endorsement: "1 paragraph postponed, 3 and 5 recommitted to the comee appointed to confer with the generals."

[3] "Last Friday afternoon I arrived here." *Josiah Bartlett to John Langdon*, 19 May, 1776.

[4] The letter of Washington is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folio 693. Those from the Commissioners in Canada are in No. 166, folios 29, 33, 41.

mented to eight; and that the above letters be referred to them:

The additional members chosen, Mr. R[obert] Morris, Mr. [James] Duane, Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee, Mr. [Edward] Rutledge, and Mr. R[obert] R. Livingston.

The committee to whom was referred the consideration of General Lee's letters of the 19 of April and 7th of May, brought in their report, which was agreed to: Whereupon,

Resolved, That General Lee's scheme of sending through the colony of Virginia to purchase riffles, be, and is, approved:

That, as the colony of Virginia is intersected with many navigable rivers, six gallies be built for the protection of the troops in their transportation across the said rivers, at the continental expence, on as cheap terms as the business for which they are intended will admit of; that such other defence of the rivers and bays, as shall be requisite for the colony, be at the particular charge of the inhabitants thereof; And, that General Lee, or the commanding officer in Virginia, transmit to Congress, as early as possible, an account of the expence which shall be incurred in consequence of this resolution:

That General Lee, or the commanding officer in Virginia, be directed to set on foot the raising of two companies of carpenters, to consist of house and ship builders:

That General Lee be permitted to order rations and forage for such volunteers of horse, not exceeding 500, as shall think proper to attend the service of their country in the continental army, agreeable to General Lee's request and proposal:

That Captain D[ohicky] Arundel's journey, to Virginia, be at his own, not continental expence:

That the pay of the assistant engineers be raised to 30 dollars a month, and that they be allowed rations for themselves, and forage for their horses, when in camp, or necessarily absent upon continental duty:

That a continental Hospital be established in Virginia, and a director to the same be immediately appointed by Congress:

That the scheme of adding two subalterns and forty privates to the company of artillery, be adopted:

That the circumstances of affairs in the middle and eastern department will not admit of Mr. Smith's being sent to General Lee:

That Thomas Bullit, Esq[r] the deputy adjutant general in Virginia, be advanced to the rank of colonel:

That from the uncertainty of the enemy's design, and the number of regiments already sent into Canada, it will be inexpedient, at present, to order any of the troops, raised in Pensylvania, or the colonies to the eastward thereof, to the southern department; nor, can Congress, at present, supply such troops as are raised in Virginia, with fire arms; but, that General Lee's application, on this subject, be attended to so soon as an importation, sufficiently considerable, will admit of his being supplied; and, that he be assured, the Congress will co-operate and aid him with their power, to render effectual his laudable endeavours to establish the rights and liberties of the good people of this Continent.

The Congress proceeded to the election of a director of the Hospital in Virginia; and, the ballots being taken,

William Rickman was elected director and chief physician of the hospital in Virginia.

Resolved, That the hospital in Virginia be on the same establishment, and the pay of the officers thereof,

the same, as the hospital established in the eastern department:

That two surgeons, one apothecary, six mates, one clerk, one store keeper, and a nurse to every ten sick, with labourers occasionally, when necessary, be allowed to the hospital in Virginia:

That the director be empowered to nominate the surgeons and apothecary:

That the mates be appointed by the surgeons, and that the number of the mates be diminished as circumstances will admit; for which reason, the pay is fixed by the day, that they may only receive pay for actual service.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention of Virginia, to raise a batallion of rifflemen, on the same terms as the other batallions raised in that colony; to be taken into the pay of the continent, when armed and accordingly mustered.

That General Washington be directed, if the service will permit, to station a batallion at Amboy.

A petition from Jos. Trumbull, commissary general, was presented to Congress, and read:[1]

Resolved, That it be referred to the committee on the treasury.

~~A motion being made and seconded, for regulating the price of salt,~~

~~Resolved, That it be referred to a committee of four. The members chosen, Mr. [Robert] Morris, Mr. R[obert] R. Livingston, Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, and Mr. [John] De Hart.~~

The Secret Committee having informed Congress of the arrival of one of the vessels fitted out at the expence of the continent, with a quantity of cash,

[1]This petition is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 42, VII, folio 326.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to give orders for sending the cash, with all convenient despatch, to the commissioners of Congress in Canada:

That the hard money in the treasury be immediately forwarded to General Schuyler.

||The secret committee laid before Congress|| A letter from Mr. Langdon; ||and, the same|| being read,

Resolved, That it be referred to the Committee of Secret Correspondence, and that said Committee be directed to apply to the Marine Committee for the use of one or more of the continental fleet; and that they send the same to the French West India islands, in order to procure, if possible, a number of muskets, not exceeding ten thousand, and further, that the said Committee be directed to endeavour to discover the designs of the French in assembling so large a fleet, with a great number of troops in the West Indies; and whether they mean to act for or against America.

A petition from Ignace Labat was presented to Congress, and read:

Resolved, That it be referred to the commissioners for Indian affairs in the middle department, who are directed to examine his claim, and pay him out of the money put into their hands, what they shall judge justly due to him.

Resolved, That Mrs. Connolly be directed not to leave Philadelphia till farther orders of Congress.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Monday.

MONDAY, MAY 20, 1776

Lyman Hall and Button Gwinnett, Esquires two of the delegates from Georgia, attended, and produced the credentials of their appointment; which were read as follows:

In Provincial Congress, Savannah, February 2d, 1776.

Resolved, That five persons be elected to represent this Province in the Continental Congress, for the Term of nine Months.

Resolved, That it be recommended, that three of the Delegates do proceed, with all possible despatch, to Philadelphia, and that they be a Quorum: Provided, nevertheless, that in case three shall not attend, by Sickness or otherwise, one or more of the Delegates being present, shall be competent to represent this Province, notwithstanding.

The Congress proceeded to ballot for the Election of Delegates, when, on closing the Poll, it appeared that Archibald Bulloch, John Houstoun, Lyman Hall, Button Gwinnett, and George Walton, Esqrs. were duly elected; and were accordingly declared as fit persons to represent this Province in the Grand Continental Congress.

A true Copy: EDWARD LANGWORTHY, *Secretary.*[1]

[1]Among the miscellaneous manuscripts in the Library of Congress is the letter of instructions sent to Lyman Hall. It reads as follows:

"*To Archibald Bulloch, John Houstoun, Lyman Hall, Button Gwinnett and George Walton, Esquires, or to such of them, who shall repair to and join the Congress at Philadelphia.*

Gentlemen,

"Our remote Situation from both the Seat of Power and Arms, keep us so very ignorant of the Counsels and ultimate designs of the Congress, and of the Transactions in the Field, that we shall decline giving you any particular instructions, other than strongly to recommend it to you, that you never lose sight of the peculiar situation in the Province you are appointed to represent. The Indians both South and North-westardly upon our backs, the fortified Town of Saint Augustine made a continual Rendezvous for Soldiers in our very Neighbourhood, together with our blacks and tories within us. Let these weighty truths be the powerful Arguments for support. At the same time we also recommend it to you, always to keep in view the general Utility, remembering that the Great and Righteous Cause in which we are engaged is not Provincial but Continental.

"We therefore, Gentlemen, shall rely upon your Patriotism, Abilities, Firmness and Integrity, to propose, join and concur in all such measures as you shall think calculated for the common good, and to oppose such as shall appear destructive.

"By Order of the Congress,

"ARCH^{D} BULLOCH, President.

"Savannah, 5th April, 1776."

Addressed "Lyman Hall, Esquire, at his plantation, St. Johns."

A letter from General Lee, dated Williamsburg, 10 May with three papers enclosed, was laid before Congress, and read:[1]

Resolved, That the said letter with the papers enclosed be referred to a committee of five:

The members chosen, Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee, Mr. [James] Wilson, Mr. [Arthur] Middleton, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, and Mr. [Oliver] Wolcott.

Certain resolutions of the convention of South Carolina, respecting the batallions raised in that colony; and also, certain resolutions passed by the assembly of said colony, respecting the manner in which commissioners, coming from England, are to be received and treated in that colony, were laid before Congress, and read.

Resolved, That the resolutions respecting the batallions raised in the colony of South Carolina, be referred to a committee of five:

The members chosen, Mr. John Adams, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, Mr. [William] Floyd, Mr. W[illiam] Livingston, and Mr. [John] Morton.

The proceedings of the Committee of Secret Correspondence which were laid before Congress, were this day read under the injunction of secresy.

The Congress then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the state of the United Colonies; and, after some time, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that the committee have had under their farther consideration the matter to them referred; but, not having had time to go through the necessary enquiries, desired him to move for leave to sit again to morrow.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to morrow, again resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 158, folio 59.

their farther consideration the state of the United Colonies.

Resolved, That Mr. [Edward] Rutledge, at his request, be discharged from serving on the Marine Committee, and that Mr. [Arthur] Middleton be a member of said committee in his stead.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 1776

Sundry letters and papers being received were laid before Congress, and read, viz.

3 letters from General Washington, of the 18, 19 and 20 of May, enclosing sundry letters and papers of intelligence from England, and a copy of the treaties made by his Britannic Majesty with the Duke of Brunswick, for 4,084 of his troops; with the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, for 12,000 of his troops; and with the count of Hanau for 668 of his troops:

A letter from William Palfrey, pay master general, with a copy of his weekly account:

A letter from John Langdon of the 10 to General Washington:[1]

Resolved, That the said letters, and papers, be referred to a committee of 5; that the said committee be directed to extract and publish the treaties, and such parts of the intelligence as they think proper; also, to consider of an adequate reward for the person who brought the intelligence; and to prepare an address to the foreign mercenaries who are coming to invade America:

[1] The three letters of Washington are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, I, folios 697, 701, and 704. Those of the 19th and 20th are printed in *Writings of Washington* (Ford), IV, 88. That of Palfrey is in No. 165, folio 428. That of Langdon is in No. 78, XIV; folio 75.

The members chosen, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. W[illiam] Livingston, Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson, Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee, and Mr. [Roger] Sherman.

A petition of Messrs. S[amuel] Austin, John Rowe, Samuel Patridge, Samuel Dashwood, and John Scolly, of Boston, was presented to Congress and read, together with a proclamation of General Howe enclosed.

Resolved, That the same be referred to the committee above appointed.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on prisoners, respecting the manner of treating prisoners; and the same being read, debated and amended was agreed to:

Resolved, That all persons taken in arms on board any prize, be deemed prisoners, to be taken care of by the supreme executive power in each Colony to which they are brought, whether the prize be taken by vessels fitted out by the Continent, or by others:

That such as are taken, be treated as prisoners of war, but with humanity, and be allowed the same rations as the troops in the service of the United Colonies; but that such as are officers supply themselves, and be allowed to draw bills to pay for their subsistence and cloathing:

That officers made prisoners in the land service, be allowed the same indulgence:

That the officers be not permitted to reside in or near any sea port town, nor public post road; and that the officers and privates be not suffered to reside in the same places:

That in case the officers cannot draw or sell their bills, the Congress will allow for each of them, Two Dollars a week for board and lodgings, to be repaid by said officers before they are released from their captivity:

That no tavern keepers supply any officers, who are prisoners, on the credit of the Continent:

That the capitulations entered into with prisoners, at the time of their surrender, be punctually observed:

That such officers as surrender prisoners of war, be put on their parole, unless Congress shall otherwise direct:

That the Form of the Parole be as follows:

I ———, being made a prisoner of war by the army of the thirteen United Colonies, in North America, do promise and engage, on my word and honour, and on the faith of a gentleman, to depart from hence to ———, in the province of ———, being the place of my destination and residence, and there, or within six miles thereof, to remain during the present war between Great Britain and the said United Colonies, or until the Congress of the said United Colonies, or the Assembly, Convention, or Committee, or Council of Safety of the said Colony, shall order otherwise; and that I will not, directly or indirectly, give any intelligence whatsoever to the enemies of the United Colonies, or do or say any thing in opposition to, or in prejudice of the measures and proceedings of any Congress for the said Colonies, during the present troubles, or until I am duly exchanged or discharged. Given under my hand, this day of A. D. 1776.

That the said Parole be signed by the officers:

That such as refuse to subscribe the parole, be committed to prison:

That David Franks, Esq[r] Agent to the contractors for victualling the troops of the King of Great Britain, be permitted to supply the prisoners with provisions and other necessaries, and to sell his bills for such sums of money as are necessary for that purpose:

And, to enable him to do this to the satisfaction of his employers, that a commissioned officer be permitted, once a month, to visit the prisoners so victualled and supplied, in order to count their numbers and certify the rolls:

That such of the prisoners as are not supplied by Mr. Franks, be furnished with provisions not exceeding the rations allowed to privates in the service of the Continent.

That the women and children belonging to prisoners, be furnished with subsistence, and supplied with firing and other things absolutely necessary for their support:

That no prisoners be inlisted in the Continental Army:

That the prisoners be permitted to exercise their trades, and to labour, in order to support themselves and families:

That the Committees of Inspection and Observation, for the counties, districts, or towns, assigned for the residence of prisoners, be empowered to superintend their conduct, and, in cases of gross misbehaviour, to confine them, and report to their respective Assembly, Convention, or Committee, or Council of Safety, the proceedings had on such occasions:

That a list of the prisoners in each Colony be made out by the Committees of the counties, towns, or districts where they reside, and transmitted to the Assembly, Convention, or Council or Committee of Safety of such Colony, respectively, who shall send a copy thereof to Congress.

That the said Assemblies, Conventions, and Committees or Councils of Safety, be empowered to contract, with proper persons, on the most reasonable terms for supplying such of the prisoners, their wives and children, in their respective Colony, as are not supplied by Mr. Franks:

That the said Assemblies, Conventions, and Committees or Councils of Safety, be authorized and requested, to take the paroles of the officers, and to cause a strict observance of the terms on which they are enlarged, and also to take especial care, that none of those confined by

order of the Congress, be suffered to escape; also, to advance the allowance of Two Dollars a week to each of the officers who cannot draw or sell their bills, and to draw for the same on the President of the Congress:

That the said Assemblies, Conventions, Committees or Councils of Safety of the Colonies, respectively, in which prisoners are or shall chuse or be appointed to reside, be empowered to remove such prisoners from place to place, within the same Colonies, as often as to such Assemblies, Conventions, Committees or Councils of Safety, it shall seem proper, having regard to the former resolutions of Congress concerning prisoners.

Ordered, That the same be immediately published.[1]

The committee, to whom the letter, from General Lee, of the 10th, was referred, brought in their report, which was read, and after some debate,

Resolved, That the farther consideration thereof be postponed till the arrival of General Washington.

The Committee to whom the letter from Gen. Lee [10 May, 1776] with its inclosures were committed, having had the same under consideration, have come to the following resolutions thereupon:

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Committee, an expedition against Detroit ought immediately to be undertaken, and the Committee beg leave to refer to a late report, now laying on the Congress Table, for a particular detail of the force and other Articles relative to this expedition.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that an expedition against Niagara be for the present suspended.[2]

[Endorsed: Bro^{t} in May 21, postponed till the arrival of Gen^{l} Washington.]

A letter of the 19th from Allan M'Donald, a prisoner at Reading, to John Nixon, Esq^{r} president of the com-

[1] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 5 June, 1776.

[2] This report, in the writing of Richard Henry Lee, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, III, folio 501.

mittee of safety of Pensylvania, being sent by said Committee to Congress was read.[1]

The committee to whom were referred the letters and papers from General Washington, Major General Schuyler, and the commissioners of Congress in Canada, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration; and after some time spent thereon,[2]

Resolved, That the farther consideration thereof be postponed till to morrow.

The committee for superintending the treasury, to whom it was referred to consider and report a plan for carrying into effect the resolution of Congress for emitting 5 millions of dollars, brought in their report, which was read:

Resolved, That the consideration thereof be postponed till to morrow.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1776

A petition from James M'Knight was presented to Congress, and read.

The committee to whom the petition of P. Simons, was referred, having brought in their report, the same was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

Resolved, That it appears James M'Knight hath proceeded to the sale of the sloop *Sally* and her cargo, contrary to the mode prescribed, and without any authority from Congress:

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XV, folio 41.

[2] This report, in the writing of Robert R. Livingston, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, VI, folio 209. It is printed under May 22, with such parts as were not accepted.

That the resolution passed the 4th of April, "empowering the committee of inspection and observation of the county of Burlington, to make sale of the sloop *Sally* and the cargo on board, and to pay one-half of the net proceeds to James M'Knight for salvage, and retain the other half for the owner or owners," be set aside.

Resolved, That it be an instruction to the Marine Committee, to procure an exact account of the number and weight of the cannon lately taken at Providence.

Resolved, That it be an instruction to the committee to whom the instructions given by the Naval Committee to Commodore Hopkins were referred, to enquire how far Commodore Hopkins has complied with the said instructions, and if, upon enquiry, they shall find he has departed therefrom, to examine in to the occasion thereof.

Resolved, That the said committee have power to send for witnesses and papers.[1]

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on the letters from General Washington, &c. received the 16th and 18th;[2] Whereupon,

Resolved, That the instructions given to Mr. Price by General Schuyler be approved: That General Schuyler be directed to take any farther measures for supplying the army in Canada with provisions, which his prudence may suggest, in which the Congress place the highest confidence:

That General Schuyler be informed of the difficulty of procuring specie, and directed, as far as possible, to remedy that inconvenience, by purchasing such necessaries as can be obtained in these colonies, and to appoint store keepers, and other officers, for the sale and distribution thereof:

[1] This was inserted instead of the resolutions passed May 8, 1776, and was so printed in the Journals.

[2] See note under May 21, p. 374, *ante*.

3d. That Genl Schuyler be directed to open such roads as will facilitate the communication between the east'n Colonies and Ticonderoga, and to employ the Troops (while he finds it necessary to detain them,) in rendering Ticonderoga defencible.

4th. That the propriety of throwing up works at Ile au Noix, and sending a small supply of provisions thither, in order to secure a retreat, if (unfortunately) our army should be driven to the necessity of evacuating Canada, should be suggested, and submitted to the judgment of Genl. Schuyler.

5th. That the alteration of our affairs in Canada renders it proper to enquire, whether it will not be more expedient to build the Gondolas mentioned in the report of the Council of War at Ticonderoga than at Chambly. That this also be suggested and left to the judgment of Genl. Schuyler, the Com'rs, and Genl. Officers in Canada.[1]

That General Schuyler be informed, that Congress have in view these two great objects, the protection and assistance of our Canadian friends, and the ~~retaining~~ securing so much of that country as may prevent any communication between our enemies and the Indians: The means of effecting these purposes by fortifying proper posts, building armed vessels where most expedient, opening roads of communication or otherwise, are left to the determination of a council or councils of war, governing themselves by events and their knowledge of the country:

That General Washington, or the commanding officer at New York, be directed to send from thence to Ticonderoga, so many light cannon as will be sufficient to arm the vessels now in Lake Champlain:

That the attention of the commissioners in Canada to the restoration of order and discipline, and to the punishment of those by whom they are violated, deserves the approbation of Congress:

That the specie now in the treasury, and as much more as can be procured, not exceeding the sum of one hun-

[1]These paragraphs were struck out, and for the 11th was substituted that which immediately follows, viz: "That General Schuyler be informed, &c." This substitute paragraph is in the writing of Thomas Jefferson.

dred thousand dollars, be immediately remitted to the commissioners for the payment of debts due from these colonies in Canada, and for the preservation of public credit.[1]

That the commissioners in Canada be directed, if necessary, to appoint proper persons to collect and audit the public accounts in that province:

10. *Resolved*, That the Comm'rs be informed that gold or silver cannot be procured without great difficulty, and that any considerable supply for the future will be very precarious. And that they be requested to devise some meathod by which (if possible) this inconvenience may be remedied.[2]

11th. That the Committee in Canada be directed to consult with the Officers there, (if they should not think it advisable to return to Quebec,) about the posts that it will be necessary to occupy in order to retain as much as possible of that province, always having in view the security of the frontiers of these Colonies, and the necessity of preventing any intercourse between our enemies and the Indians.

That the commissioners in Canada, and General Schuyler, be informed, that we cannot give them any assurance of maintaining our army there by hard money; but, that [this ought not to discourage our operations, Congress being][3] determined to send, from these colonies, supplies of provisions and all other necessaries, if hard money cannot be obtained; and that, in the mean time, the best endeavours shall be used to procure the sum of one hundred thousand dollars in hard money:

That some person [or persons be employed by the president in New England,][4] as an agent or agents, to procure, if possible, hard money, to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars, [and as soon as a considerable

[1] The Warrant Book shows that 52,000 dollars were sent.

[2] For this paragraph was substituted that beginning: "That the commissioners in Canada and General Schuyler be informed," &c.

[3] These words are in the writing of James Duane.

[4] These words were inserted by John Hancock.

sum is obtained, the said agents be directed to transmit the same to the commissioners of Congress in Canada, for the use of the army there, and in case of the absence of the commissioners, the same to be delivered to the deputy pay master general:][1]

12th. That the Commrs in Canada be directed (if unhappily our army sh'd be reduced to the necessity of evacuating that Colony,) to receive into our pay all those who have adhered to us, and shall wish to leave that country, and to render every assistance in their power to such of them as cannot be provided for in that way, and to give them the firmest assurances of the aid and protection of Congress.

That such present be made to the Indians on the delivery of the hatchet, as the commissioners in Canada think prudent:

That 500,000 dollars be sent as soon as possible to General Schuyler.

15. That Surgeons and mates be added to the Hospital in Canada and that Doctr. Stringer be directed to procure them.[2]

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

On several certificates exhibited by Joseph Donaldson, the sum of £175 6 10=467.6 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Robert M'Pherson, Esq[r] and

Captain Dowdle's company, charged with £5 0 0 [= 13 1-3 dollars.]

Captain Nelson's company, charged with £10 1 7 [= 26.8]

Captain James Grier, for a riffle, with £3 10 0 [=9 1-3]

Captain Cressap's company, for riffles, with £9 4 0 [= 24.5]

Captain Stephenson's company with £3 4 10 [=8 2-3] and the remainder to the continent:

[1]These words were inserted by John Hancock. The last two paragraphs, except for the words and phrases mentioned, are in the writings of John Adams.

[2]Against this paragraph is written: "Referr'd to to morrow."

To Robert Erwin, waggon master, for hauling salt petre from Egg Harbor, the sum of £44 0 6=117.4 dollars:

To Robert Patton, for 163 days attendance as messenger, the sum of £40 15 0=108.7 dollars:

To Hugh Hodge, for medicines for the third Pensylvania batallion, the sum of £10 5 9=27.4 dollars:

To Samuel Kennedy, surgeon to the fourth Pensylvania batallion, the sum of £5 6=14.1 dollars.

To Michael Whitman, for provisions furnished prisoners from St. John's, the sum of £1 15 6,= dollars ||Pensylvania currency,|| and that the same ought to be paid to Adam Kimmel, together with 5/ ||two-thirds of a dollar|| omitted to be charged in a former account rendered by him, the whole amounting to 5.3 dollars.

On several accounts rendered by Major Nicholas Hausegger, for necessaries for the fourth Pensylvania batallion, the sum of £76 7 10=203.7 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to him:

To Christian Levy, for a riffle, the sum of £3=8 dollars, which ought to be charged to Captain Nelson:

To Major Nicholas Hausegger, for divers expences paid by him, the sum of £12 17 11=34.4 dollars:

To John Barnes for boarding officers, prisoners at Trenton, the sum of £29 0 0=77.3 dollars; and that

Dr. Huddleston ought to be charged with £9 0 0 [=] 24 [dollars.]

Lieutenant Hamar, with £9 0 0 [=] 24 [dollars.]

Major Regonville, with £6 0 0 [=] 16 [dollars.]

Lieutenant Symes, with £5 0 0 [=] 13.3 [dollars.]

On several accounts exhibited by Lewis Gordon, Esq^{r} for sundry necessaries [furnished] by Northampton committee to Captain Nelson's and Captain Craig's companies, the sum of £491 5 $7^{1}/_{2}$=1310.1 dollars; of which there ought to be charged,

To Captain Craig's company, the sum of £452 2 11= [1205.7 dollars.]

To Captain Nelson's company, the sum of £2 14= [7.2 dollars.] and the remainder to the continent:

Ordered, That the said accounts be paid.

Resolved, That General Washington be empowered to appoint an assistant clerk to his secretary, with the pay of 40 dollars per month.

Resolved, That an order for 10,500 dollars be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of the delegates of Connecticut, to be by them transmitted to the governor and council of said colony, for the use of the batallion ordered to be raised there by a resolution of the 16 instant, the said governor and council to be accountable.

That an order for 21,000 dollars be drawn on the treasurers in favour of the delegates of Massachusetts bay, to be by them transmitted to the Assembly of said Colony, for the use of the two batallions ordered to be raised there by the resolution above mentioned, the said Assembly to be accountable.

The pay of the said three batallions to commence from the time they are armed and mustered:

That an order for 10,500 dollars be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of the delegates of New Hampshire, to be by them transmitted to the Council of said colony, for the use of the batallion ordered to be raised there, by a resolution of the 14th Instant, the said Council to be accountable.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee for superintending the treasury: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the five millions of dollars, directed to be emitted in continental bills of credit, shall consist of the following denominations:

138,889 of 1	dollar each =	138,889
138,889 of 2	do =	277,778
138,889 of 3	do =	416,667
138,889 of 4	do =	555,552
138,889 of 5	do =	694,445
138,889 of 6	do =	833,334
138,889 of 7	do =	972,223
138,889 of 8	do =	1,111,112
1,111,111		5,000,000

That the inspectors of the press for the last emission, be directed and authorized, to perform that service for the present emission, being first qualified agreeable to the resolution of Congress, passed the 21st of February last:

That the gentlemen appointed to sign and number the bills of credit of the last emission, be authorized to sign and number the bills of credit of five millions of dollars now agreed to be emitted, taking, before they shall enter upon their office, the oath or affirmation prescribed by the resolution of Congress of the 9th of March last:

That the plates engraved for the two first emissions, shall be used in the emission now directed, and that the bills be expressed in the following words:

Dollar

This bill entitles the bearer to receive Spanish milled dollars, or the value thereof in gold or silver, according to a resolution of Congress, passed at Philadelphia the 9 of May, 1776.

That the said bills be signed by two signers, and each different denomination numbered from number one progressively.

The committee, appointed to examine and ascertain the value of the several species of gold and silver coins current in these colonies, and the proportions they ought respectively to bear to Spanish milled dollars, brought in their report, which was read:

The Committee appointed on the 19th of April, to ascertain the value of the several species of gold and silver current in these colonies, and

the proportion they and each of them bear and ought to bear to Spanish milled dollars, have taken the same into consideration and, thereupon, came to the following resolutions:[1]

Whereas, the holders of bills of credit emitted by authority of Congress will be entitled, at certain periods appointed for redemption thereof to receive out of the treasury of the united colonies the amount of the said bills in spanish milled dollars, or the value thereof in gold or silver; and the value of such dollars, compared with other silver and with gold coins, is ~~adjusted~~ estimated by different standards in different colonies, whereby injustice may happen in some instances to the public, as well as to individuals which ought to be remedied. And whereas the ~~said bills, having been issued at the full value therein expressed, their credit,~~ credit of the said bills, as current money ought to be supported by the inhabitants of these colonies, for whose benefit they were issued at the full value therein expressed, and who stand bound to redeem the same, according to the like value; *And the pernicious Artifices of the Enemies of American Liberty to impair the Credit of the said Bills by raising the nominal Value of Gold and Silver ought to be guarded against and prevented*,[2] Therefore,

Resolved, that the several gold and silver coins passing in the said colonies shall be received into the public treasury of the continent, and paid out in exchange for bills emitted by authority of Congress, when the same shall become due, at the rates set down in the following table:[3]

	Weight— dwt.	gra.	Value in Dollars.
English Guinea	5	6	$4\frac{2}{3}$
French Guinea	5	5	$4\frac{5}{9}$
Johannes	18	0	16
half Johannes	9	0	8
Spanish Pistole	4	8	$3\frac{2}{3}$
French ditto	4	4	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Doubloon	[4]		[4]
Moidore	6	18	6
English Crown			$1\frac{1}{9}$
French Crown			$1\frac{1}{9}$
English Shilling			$0\frac{2}{9}$
Spanish milled Dollar[5]			1 Dollar of continental money.[5]

[1] This paragraph is in the writing of Charles Thomson.

[2] The sentence in italics is an addition or amendment, in the writing of James Duane.

[3] The table is in the writing of Roger Sherman.

[4] The paper has been eaten away in these places.

[5] These words are in the writing of James Duane.

Resolved, that a deduction at the rate of one twenty ninth part of a Dollar per Grain shall be made on all gold coins falling short of the weight specified in the aforesaid Table, and an advance at the same rate shall be allowed on such as exceed the aforesaid weight.[1]

Resolved, that ~~the value of all other gold coin current in these Colonies~~ all parts of the several Gold Coin before enumerated shall be rated in Just proportion ~~to those contained in~~ according to the foregoing table ~~according to their weight and fineness~~: and that Gold ~~not coined~~ in Bullion shall be at the rate of Seventeen Dollars per ounce Troy weight Sterling alloy, and silver at one Dollar and one ninth of a Dollar per ounce.[1]

Resolved, that all bills of credit emitted by authority of Congress ought to pass current in all payments trade and dealings in these colonies, and be deemed equal in value to gold and silver, according to the rates set down in the foregoing table; and that whosoever shall offer, demand, or receive more in the said bills for any gold or silver coins, or bullion, than at the rates aforesaid, or more of the said bills for any Lands, houses, goods, wares, or merchandize, than the nominal sum at which the same might be purchased of the same person with gold or silver, every such person ought to be deemed an enemy to the liberties of these colonies, and treated accordingly, being duly convicted thereof before the committee of inspection ~~of the place where he resides~~ [of the City, County or District, or in Case of Appeal from their Decision before the Assembly, Convention, Council or Committee of Safety, of the place where he shall reside, or before such other Persons or Courts as have been or shall be Authorized by the General Assemblies or Conventions of the Colonies respectively to hear and determine such offences].[2]

Ordered, To lie on the table.

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1776

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to confer with General Washington, Major General Gates, and Brigadier General Mifflin, upon the most speedy and

[1] This paragraph is in the writing of Roger Sherman.

[2] The words in brackets were inserted in the report by James Duane. This report, in the writing of George Wythe, save as otherwise noted, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 26, folio 1.

effectual means for supporting the American cause in Canada:

The members chosen, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. [James] Wilson, and Mr. [Edward] Rutledge.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to contract for the making fire arms, be directed to order the manager of the continental factory of fire arms, at Lancaster, and the manager of the gun lock factory at Trenton, to deliver to Colonel Shee, or his order, all the muskets and gun locks that each of them may have ready, in order to the more expeditious arming of the continental batallion under Colonel Shee's command:

Resolved, That the committee appointed to contract for the making of fire arms, be directed to bring in a resolution for promoting and encouraging the making of good fire arms.

A letter from Charles Miller to Joseph Trumbull, Esq[r] the commissary general, being laid before Congress, was read:

Resolved, That it be referred to a committee of three:[1]

The members chosen, Mr. [William] Whipple, Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, and Mr. F[rancis Lightfoot] Lee.

Resolved, As the opinion of this Congress, that James M'Knight ought to restore to the owners the money found on board the sloop *Sally*, and also all the effects, or the money he received for the effects, on board the said sloop, at the time she was run on shore, and for the wreck, tackle and furniture of said sloop; which effects, wreck, tackle, and furniture, were sold or pretended to be sold, or secreted by him, the said James M'Knight.[2]

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XV, folio 37.

[2] A memorandum by James McKnight of property is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 42, VII, folio 9.

Ordered, That General Washington attend in Congress to morrow.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1776

A letter from Mrs. Abi. Grant was laid before Congress and read, requesting permission to return to her husband and family in London, and to take on board necessary stores for the voyage:

Resolved, That her request be granted, and that the president give her a passport to the place where she shall chuse to embark.

The Committee for superintending the treasury, to whom was referred the account and claim of Captain Herman Allen, of Lieutenant Colonel Warner's batallion, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

Resolved, That there be allowed to Captain Herman Allen, of Lieutenant Colonel Warner's batallion, for sundry disbursements for the use of his company, the sum of three hundred and sixty dollars, over and above the account allowed by the New York convention, amounting to two hundred and forty pounds eighteen shillings, New York money.

The committee, to whom was referred the petition of Joseph Trumbull, Esq[r] commissary general, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration and agreed to; Whereupon,

Resolved, That there be allowed to the several persons under mentioned, employed in the commissary general's department, in the continental army, the wages and rations

annexed to their names respectively, during the time they have been, and shall continue, in the service of the United Colonies:

A list of persons employed in the commissary general's department in the continental army the 20th January, 1776.

Charles Miller, issuing store keeper, 50 dollars per month, and 4 rations per day:

Peter Roe Dalton, first clerk, 4/8, lawful [money] per day, and 3 do.

Ebenezer Perry, and Thomas Durant, clerks in store, 3/4 do. and 2 do:

William Brown, and Josiah Brown, clerks at scales, 3/4 do. and 2 do:

Robert Davis, clerk of weekly allowances, 3/4 do. and 2 do.

Eight laborers, one cooper. and one cook, each 2/8, per day, and 1 do:

The foregoing employed in the issuing store at Cambridge, to issue to two Brigades.

Aaron Blaney, issuing store keeper, 50 dollars per month, and 4 rations:

James Richardson, first clerk, 4/8, a day, and 3 do.

Two clerks in store, 3/4 do. and 2 do:

Two clerks at scales, 3/4 do. and 2 do.

Six labourers, one cooper and one cook, 2/8 do. and 1 do.

The above employed in issuing store at Roxbury to issue to two brigades.

Peter Philips, Esq[r] issuing store keeper, 40 dollars a month, and 4 rations:

Griffin Green, first clerk, 4/8, per day, and 3 do:

One clerk in store, and one at scales, 3/4 each per do, and 2 do:

One cooper, and four labourers, 2/8 each per do. and 1 do.

These employed in issuing store on Prospect Hill, to issue to one brigade.

Moses Emerson, Esq[r] issuing store keeper, at 40 dollars per month, and 4 rations:

Israel Mead, first clerk, 4/8, per day, and 3 rations:

One clerk in store, and one at scales, 3/4 do. and 2 do.

One cooper, and four labourers, each 2/8 do. and 1 do.

These [employed] in the issuing store at Medford to issue to one brigade.

Samuel Gray, Reuben Stiles, and Daniel Brown, clerks and magazine keepers, each 4/8, per day, and 3 rations:

One cooper, 2/8, do, and 1 do.

Employed in magazine at Cambridge.

Jabez Porter, and James Yancey Pendleton, clerks and magazine keepers, each 4/8, per day, and 3 do:

One cooper, 2/8 do. and 1 do.

Employed in magazine at Roxbury.

Joseph Farnsworth, employed as commissary to Colonel Arnold's detachment, @ £10, [lawful money] per month, and 3 rations [per day:]

Returned from Fort Halifax.

John Thomas, employed constantly in riding to get in stores, procure teams, &c. himself and horse, 8/, per day, and 3 rations:

William Hoskins, Elisha Avery, principal book keepers and payers of smaller bills, &c. £10, a month, and 3 rations [per day.]

Resolved, That an addition of 40 dollars a month be made to the pay of the commissary general.[1]

The committee appointed to confer with General Washington, Major General Gates, and Brigadier General

[1] This report, in the writing of James Duane, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, VI, folios 53–57. The list of names appears to have been furnished by Trumbull.

Mifflin, brought in their report; which, being taken into consideration, was agreed to: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the commanding officer in Canada, be informed, that the Congress are fully convinced of the absolute necessity of keeping possession of that country, and that they expect the forces in that department will contest every foot of the ground with the enemies to these colonies; And, as the Congress have in view the cutting off all communication between the upper country and the enemy, they judge it highly necessary that the exertions of the forces be particularly made on the St. Lawrence, below the mouth of the Sorel:

That the commanding officer in Canada be directed to make exact and frequent returns of men, provisions and military stores in the Canadian department, to the general and commander in chief of the United Colonies:

That General Schuyler be desired to take care that the army in Canada be regularly and effectually supplied with necessaries:

That the troops ordered for Canada be hastened into that country so soon as provisions can be forwarded for their support:

That the commanding officer in Canada be assured of the resolution of Congress, to afford him every support, in his endeavours to carry their views in execution.[1]

Resolved, That Mr. R[obert] R. Livingston be added to the committee [of conference] who brought in the foregoing report; and that they be directed to confer with General Washington, Major General Gates, and Brigadier General Mifflin, touching the most proper posts, and measures to be taken for effectually preventing the enemy's

[1] This report, in the writing of Benjamin Harrison, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, VI, folio 169. The arrangement of the paragraphs is different from that in the printed version.

communication with the upper country from Canada, and such other measures as shall tend to secure the frontiers.

General Washington, ~~being arrived from New York,~~ agreeable to order, attended in Congress, and, after some conference with him,

Resolved, That he be directed to attend again to morrow.

A letter of the 26 of April from the convention of North Carolina, with a list of prisoners by them sent to Pensylvania, being laid before Congress, and read:

Resolved, That the said letter and list be delivered to the committee of safety of Pensylvania, and that they be desired to have the said prisoners properly and safely secured and provided for, agreeable to the resolutions of Congress, at the expence of the United Colonies.[1]

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Jacob Hiltzheimer, for sundry expresses, the sum of £139 12 6=372.3 dollars.

To Captain Nathaniel Falconer, for his and Mr. Ashe's expences, together with the expences of two servants going to New York, with money, and returning, the sum of £36 19=98.5 dollars:

To Daniel Smith, for expences of guards, &c. at the city tavern, over Brigadier General Prescot, and Captain Chase, the sum of £44 5 7=118 dollars.

Ordered, That the said accounts be paid.

Sundry resolutions, passed by the convention of Maryland, were laid before Congress, and read.

||The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,||

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

[1] A letter from the Committee of Secrecy, War and Intelligence of the Congress of North Carolina, dated April 22, with the list of prisoners, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 72, folio 7.

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1776

A letter of the 18 from Colonel William Winds, of the New Jersey forces:

A petition from the committee of the county of Lincoln, was presented to Congress; also,

A petition from John Wilcocks, and John and Peter Chevalier, was presented and read.[1]

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to sell to the above petitioners, ||John Wilcocks, and John and Peter Chevalier,|| 75 lb. of gun powder.

That the said committee be directed to deliver to the committee of safety of Pensylvania, half a ton of powder, in order to prove cannon, the said committee to be accountable.

Resolved, That an order for 20,000 dollars be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of James Mease, commissary, for the use of the Pensylvania batallions, he to be accountable:

That Mr. J. Mease be directed to lay in a stock of shoes, hats, and stockings for the use of the troops in the continental service, on the most reasonable terms.

A petition from James M'Knight was presented to Congress and read.

Ordered, To lie on the table.

A memorial from the committee of inspection and observation of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, was presented to Congress and read:[2]

Ordered, To lie on the table.

Ordered, That a copy of said memorial be delivered to Mr. R[obert] Morris, who desires the same in behalf of the Assembly of Pensylvania.

[1] The letter of Winds, dated from Still Water, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XXIII, folio 281.

[2] This memorial is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 41, II, folio 9. It is printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 29 May, 1776.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of the delegates of Virginia, for the sum of 65,000 dollars for the use of the batallions raised in that colony, the said colony to be accountable.

General Washington having attended, agreeable to order, and after some conference with him,

Resolved, That a committee ~~to consist of a member from each of the colonies,~~ be appointed to confer with General Washington, Major General Gates, and Brigadier General Mifflin, and concert a plan of military operations for the ensuing campaign.

That the committee consist of the following members: Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee, Mr. J[ohn] Adams, Mr. [James] Wilson, Mr. R[obert] R. Livingston, Mr. [William] Whipple, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, Mr. [Stephen] Hopkins, Mr. W[illiam] Livingston, Mr. [George] Read, Mr. [Matthew] Tilghman, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, Mr. [Arthur] Middleton, and Mr. [Lyman] Hall.

The committee of safety of Pensylvania, to whom were delivered the letter from the convention of North Carolina, ||and the list of the prisoners sent from thence,|| having appointed Colonel Roberdeau to inform the Congress that the prisoners sent from North Carolina being arrived, are ordered to be closely confined, in Philadelphia gaol, and an officer's guard ordered for their better security; and to enquire whether they are to have the allowance ordered to officers:

Resolved, That the disposition of the prisoners, made by the committee of safety, is approved, and that they have the allowance ordered to ||other|| officers ||who are prisoners.||[1]

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on the letter from General Washington, of the

[1] A list of these prisoners is in the *Colonial Records of Pennsylvania*, X, 581.

11 of May, the letter from General Schuyler, of the 3, and the letter from Captain Daniel Robertson, of the royal Highland Emigrant regiment, of the 9th, ||which was in part agreed to:|| Whereupon,

Resolved, That Lieutenant Colonel Burbeck be dismissed from the continental service.

That a letter be written to the president of the convention of Virginia, requesting that they will immediately forward to Philadelphia such quantity of lead as can be spared from that colony:

That one batallion of Germans be raised for the service of the United Colonies:

That General Schuyler be empowered to increase the number of batteaus to two hundred:

That four of the prisoners taken at St. Johns, and suggested, by the letter from Captain Robertson, to have inlisted in the continental Army, to wit:

William Roughhead and Elisha Grisler, in Captain Hubley's company; John Santon, in Captain Browne's company; and John Mayot, in a company unknown, be dismissed the service and return to their corps at Lancaster.

That the consideration of the first paragraph in said report be postponed, and that the third and fifth paragraphs be committed to the committee appointed to confer with the generals.

A number of Deputies, from four of the Six Nations of Indians, having arrived in town, and notified Congress that they are desirous of an audience,

Resolved, That they be admitted to an audience on Monday next, at 11 o'Clock.

Resolved, That notice be given to the colonels of the Association ||of the city and liberties of Philadelphia,|| that it is the desire of Congress they would draw out their

batallions in general review, on Monday morning, as early as possible; and that the Congress, with the generals in town, propose to attend the review at 9 o'Clock.

Resolved, That the arms, ammunition, and military stores, taken by the armed schooner *Franklin*, or any other of the armed vessels in the pay of the United Colonies, be at the disposal of the General or commander in chief of the American forces.

The committee, to whom the resolutions of the Convention of South Carolina, respecting the batallions raised in the colony of South Carolina, were referred, brought in their report, which was read.

Resolved, That the several reports on General Washington's letters, not yet considered, and the General's letters which were referred to a committee of the whole Congress, be committed to the committee appointed to confer with him [the generals.]

As two of the committee to whom the letter from Colonel Hand, of the riffle batallion, was referred, are absent,

Resolved, That two members be chosen in their room:

The members chosen, Mr. [James] Wilson and Mr. [Oliver] Wolcott.

The committee to whom was referred the letter from Charles Miller to the commissary general, brought in their report, which was agreed to: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the commissary general be directed to order so much of the provisions stored in the continental magazines in Massachusetts bay, to be delivered, for victualling the five ships of war, now building at Portsmouth, Newburyport, and Providence, as the Marine Committee shall direct; and to keep the residue for the use of the continental army, that are or may be stationed in the eastern department.

That the commissary general be directed to receive the

amount of the pork, beef, and fish, supplied the colony of Massachusetts bay, and credit the same in his account with the United Colonies.[1]

The committee appointed to confer with his Excellency General Washington, Major General Gates and Brigadier General Mifflin, touching the most proper posts and measures to be taken for preventing the enemies communication with the upper country from Canada, and such other measures as tend to secure the frontiers, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration, Whereupon,

The Comm^ee^ appointed to confer with his Excy General Washington, Major General Gates and Brigadier General Mifflin, touching the most proper Posts and Measures to be taken for effectually preventing the Enemies communication with the upper Country from Canada, and such other Measures as shall tend to secure the Frontiers, beg leave to report

G. 9.[2] That from a thorough Consideration of the Subject Matter refer'd to them they are of Opinion it is of the highest Importance that Post be taken at De Chambeaux and that the same be fortified,—that Works be likewise erected on the Islands in the River S^t^ Lawrence at the Mouth of the River Sorrel as well to keep open the Communication between De Chambeaux and S^t^ John as to prevent the Enemy's passing to the Upper Country should the Forces of the United Colonies be compell'd to retreat from De Chambeaux.[3]

That it is highly expedient to engage the Indians in the Service of the United Colonies. The above agreed to 25 May, 1776.[4]

R. That the Commrs. at Albany be directed to use their utmost Endeavours to procure the Assistance of the Indians to act ~~offensively~~ against the Enemies of these Colonies, that they apply themselves particularly to induce the Indians to undertake the Reduction of Niagara, and that as an Enducement so to do they engage in Behalf of the Congress to pay them £50 Pennsylvania Currency for every

[1] This report, in the writing of Elbridge Gerry, is in *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, IV, folio 77.

[2] These side letters and figures were inserted by Jefferson, and correspond with those used in the paper printed p. 448, *post*.

[3] See p. 395.

[4] This sentence is in the writing of John Hancock.

Prisoner [Soldier of the Garrison][1] they shall take and bring to head Quarters or to the said Commissioners, and the free plunder of the Garrison. Refer'd.[2]

R. 2. That the Commissioners in the Middle Department be directed to use their best Endeavours to procure the Assistance of the Indians under their Care, that they prevail upon them if possible to undertake the Reduction of Detroit upon the same Terms as the Commers. at Albany are directed to engage the Indians ag^{t} Niagara. Refer'd.[2]

R. 3. That the Commrs. in each of these Departments be directed to employ one or more able Partisans, whom the Congress will liberally reward for their Exertions in the Business to be committed to them. Refer'd.[2]

That the Commander in Chief be authorised and instructed to employ in the Continental Armies a Number of Indians not exceeding to be upon such Terms as he shall think most beneficial for the United Colonies.[3]

Resolved, That it is of the highest importance that post be taken at Dechambeau and that the same be fortified; that works be likewise erected on the islands in the river St. Lawrence at the mouth of the river Sorrel, as well to keep open the communication between Dechambeau and

[1] These words were interlined in pencil.

[2] In the writing of John Hancock.

[3] This report, in the writing of Edward Rutledge, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, VI, folio 173. It is endorsed: "Bro't in May 25, 1776. partly agreed to. remainder postponed till Monday next." See p. 452, *post*.

The paragraphs numbered R, R 2 and R 3 were placed first in a report presented by Jefferson, without date but probably prepared in the Committee appointed June 15; to digest and arrange the several resolutions agreed to in Committee of the Whole. The first resolution differs in the reward for prisoners, reading: "Engaging on behalf of Congress to pay them 133⅓ dollars for every prisoner they shall take and bring to head quarters, or to the said Commissioners." Nothing is said about plunder. Against these three paragraphs Harrison, as chairman of the Committee of the Whole, has written "postpon'd."

The next paragraph in this Jefferson paper reads: "*Resolved*, that it is the opinion of this Committee that there be raised for the service of the United colonies one battalion of Germans." It has been struck out by a pen, and in the margin Harrison has written: "referred to N. J. and P. for the mode," evidently the first form of the resolution printed under May 25th, p. 392, *ante*, and June 17th, on p. 454, *post*.

The Jefferson paper then continues with the resolutions printed on June 17th, p. 452, *post*, with the variations there noted.

St. Johns, as to prevent the enemy's passing to the upper country, should the forces of the United Colonies be compelled to retreat from Dechambeau.

That it is highly expedient to engage the Indians in the service of the United Colonies.

Resolved, That the farther consideration of the report be postponed till Monday next.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 9 o'Clock on Monday next.

MONDAY, MAY 27, 1776

A letter from G[eorge] Morgan, Esq[r] of the 16 to Lewis Morris, was laid before Congress, and read:[1]

Resolved, That it be referred to the standing committee on Indian affairs.

A petition of Samuel De Lucena was presented to the Congress, and read:

Resolved, That the same be referred to the sulphur and salt petre committee.

A petition from the committee of the county of Monmouth, in the colony of New Jersey, was presented to Congress, and read:

Ordered, To lie on the table.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to send forward with all possible despatch, one ton of powder, lent for the defence of the western frontiers; 800 lb. of which to be lodged in Fort Pitt, and 600 lb. to be lodged with the committee of West Augusta, and 600 lb. with the committee of Westmoreland, to be used only in case that country is attacked.

The Indians having, agreeable to order, been admitted to an audience. ||After they withdrew,||

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 163, folio 237.

Resolved, That the standing committee for Indian affairs, be directed to prepare a speech, to the Indians, and to procure such articles as they judge proper for presents to the Indians.

The delegates from North Carolina, laid before Congress, certain instructions they have received from their convention.

Also the delegates from Virginia laid before Congress certain instructions they have received from their convention, which were read.

Resolved, That the sum of 30,000 dollars be transmitted to the Assembly of Massachusetts bay, to be by them exchanged for silver and gold, for the Canada expedition, agreeable to a former resolution of Congress.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 1776

Resolved, That Colonel Turbutt Francis be desired to attend at the next conference with the Indians, and assist in interpreting for them.

The committee, to whom it was referred to consider a mode for regulating the price of salt, brought in their report, which was read: and,

The Committee, to whom was referred the regulation of the price of salt, are humbly of opinion:

That some persons possessed of large quantities of salt imported before the late restrictions on our trade have taken an undue advantage of the recommendation of Congress to the several committees of observation and inspection, to desist from any farther regulation of the prices of merchandize, by demanding an extravagant price for that necessary article.

That tho' regulations of that nature ~~on trade~~ tend to discourage Commerce and increase the scarcity which they were designed to

remove, yet that the same is not applicable to salt, unless it is sold so high as to be very burthensome to the poor, as it can only be imported in large vessels the risk of which is extreamly great.

That in order to remmedy this inconvenience without burthening trade it will be proper to fix the price of salt now in the Country, or hereafter to be imported or manufactured, when sold at the place into which the same is imported, or at which it is manufactured, at 2/3 of a dollar per Bushel. If sold at any other place ~~more remote,~~ at the same price, with the addition of so much as will defray the charges of transportation.

That a bounty sh^d^ be given by this Congress of 1/3 of a dollar p'r bushl, upon all such salt as shall be imported into or manufactured within either of these colonies, within one year from the ~~first day of july next~~ date hereof, that the same sh^d^ be paid by the Continental Treasurer to any person or persons who shall produce to him a certificate from the Convention, Assembly, or Committee of safety of the province in which salt shall have been manufactured, or into which the same shall have been imported, that the said certificate contain the name of the manufacturer or importer, the quantity manufactured or imported, and the time in which the same was applied for.[1]

Ordered, To lie on the table.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1776

A letter from General Wooster, of the 27 of April last, also,

A letter from William Palfrey, with a weekly account from the 19 to 25 of May inclusive, were laid before Congress, and read.[2]

A petition from Captain W. Budden was presented to Congress and read; Whereupon,

[1] This report, in the writing of Robert R. Livingston, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 28, folio 175.

[2] The letter of Wooster is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 161, folio 309. That of Palfrey is in No. 165, folio 439.

Resolved, That midshipman [John] Draper be offered in exchange for Captain W[illiam] Budden.

A letter from Levi Hollingsworth, and Thomas Richardson, to the committee of safety of Pensylvania, dated New Port, 21st instant; also

A memorial from sundry members of the general assembly of Rhode Island, were presented to Congress, and read:[1]

Ordered, To lie on the table.

The committee appointed to confer with his Excellency General Washington, Major General Gates and Brigadier General Mifflin, brought in a farther report, which was read:

The Committee appointed to confer with the Generals, &c. beg leave to report as follows:

That it having been considered and proposed In what proportion of numbers should the enemies force be opposed?

Answer. Two to One.

Q. What number of the enemy may it be supposed will be sent to attack Canada?

A. Ten thousand, and as the whole force at present directed for Canada, when it arrives there will not exceed 10,000 men, therefore upon the question:

What are the proportions to be furnished by the different Provinces out of the Militia for the defence of Canada? Answered

Massachusetts	4,500
Connecticut	2,000
New Hampshire	1,000
N. York	1,500
Indians	1,000
Total	10,000

Q. What number of the enemy may it be supposed will attack New York?

A. Twelve thousand five hundred, and as the Continental force now at N. York for the defence of that place and the communication with

[1] The Hollingsworth-Richardson letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XI, folio 53. The Rhode Island memorial is in No. 41, VIII, folio 256.

Albany does not exceed 10,000 Men, therefore upon the question What are the proportions to be furnished by the different Provinces out of the Militia, for the defence of N. York, &c?

A.	Massachusetts	2,000
	Connecticut	5,500
	N. York	3,000
	N. Jersey	3,300
		13,800
	2 Battalions Pensylvania establishment	1,200
	Total	15,000

Q. What force is necessary for protection of the four N. England Provinces?

A. The eleven regiments raised and ordered to be raised in those Colonies, are in the opinion of the Committee sufficient.

Q. Should a flying Camp be immediately established in the middle Colonies?

A. Unanimously approved of.

Q. How many should the flying Camp consist of?

A. Ten thousand men.

Q. From whence and in what proportions are the Troops to come that are to form the flying Camp?

A.	From Pennsylvania	6,000
	Maryland	3,400
	Lower Counties	600
	Total	10,000

Q. Is the present establishment sufficient for the Southern Colonies?

A. The present force is sufficient, except in South Carolina and Georgia, where it appears to this Committee that an additional force is necessary.

Q. For how long time is the Militia to be engaged?

A. To the first of December unless sooner discharged by Congress.

Q. When is the Militia pay to commence?

A. From the day, of their marching from home, and they are to be allowed one penny a mile lawful money in lieu of rations for travelling expences, and one days pay for every 20 miles between home and the General Rendezvous going and returning.

The Committee are of opinion that an animated ~~exhortation~~ address be published, to impress the minds of the people with the necessity of

their now stepping forward to save their Country, their freedom and property.[1]

That it be earnestly recommended to the Assemblies, Conventions and Committees of Safety in the United Colonies to fall upon the most effectual means of removing the Stocks, grain and Meal from such parts of their respective Provinces as are invaded, or are in imminent danger of being invaded by the enemy.

It is the opinion of this Committee that two Provincial Brigadier's General be employed in the Canada department. One from Massachusetts and one from Connecticut.

That four provincial Brigadiers General be employed in the N. York department, one from Massachusetts, one from Connecticut, one from N. York and one from N. Jersey.

It is also the opinion of this Committee that three Brigadiers General be employed for the Flying Camp. Two from Pennsylvania and one from Maryland.

That the said brigadiers general be appointed by the respective colonies above mentioned.

Your Committee further recommend that the Departments of Commissary General, Qr Master Genl, and Adjutant Genl, &c, &c, be under one Head, to whom all returns and reports are to be made.

That the Engineer's pay be increased.

That a Resolve of Congress be passed for punishment of Spies found in any of the Continental Camps.

That the Flying Camp be under the Command of such Continental General officers as the Commander in Chief shall direct.

That the Commander in Chief be authorised to form and fix such Magazines of provisions and Military Stores as he may judge necessary.

That the General be authorised to direct the building as many Fire rafts and Gallies as may be necessary and suitable for the immediate defence of the port at N. York and Hudsons river.[2]

~~Ordered to lie on the table.~~ Whereupon,

Resolved, That an animated address be published to impress the minds of the people with the necessity of

[1] Beginning with this paragraph each one is marked in the margin by Hancock "agreed," except the paragraph applying to the pay of the engineers, against which is written "disagreed."

[2] This report, in the writing of Richard Henry Lee, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, VI, folios 185–187.

their now stepping forward to save their country, their freedom and property.

That a committee of four be appointed to prepare the address.

The members chosen, Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson, Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. S[amuel] Adams, and Mr. [Edward] Rutledge.[1]

[1] In the papers of Thomas Jefferson, Vth Series, VIII, is found the following fragment, in the writing of George Wythe. It was probably intended to be the address:

"The delegates of the united colonies of New Hampshire, &c. to the inhabitants of the said colonies.

"There seems no reason now to expect an accommodation of the dispute between Great Britain and these colonies. All overtures towards it on our part have been ineffectual; and on the other hand no terms have been offered to us, but obedience to unconstitutional authority is required. Arms must decide, whether we shall be subject to laws made by men who are not appointed approved of or controulable by us, whose interest it is to oppress us, and whose pride and resentment will be gratified by humbling us; or [whether] shall be subject to laws made by men we ourselves choose and may change, who bear their just proportions of the burthens they impose upon the community, and whose true glory it is to advance its posterity; in other words, whether we shall resign ourselves to the government of arbitrary rulers, and our property [of] to the disposition of those who are under many temptations, but no restraint, to take it away from us; or shall reserve so much of our natural liberty as permits the doing of every thing but what we ought not, what good men desire not, to do, and may [part of or] dispose of our property for such public uses, and in such manner and measure as we judge fit. If the enemy conquer, we must be wretched; if not, we may be happy; in either event, our posterity must be involved in our fate. Uniting [closely] firmly, resolving wisely, and acting vigorously, it is morally certain, we cannot be subdued. Those among us, if there be any, who will not join with us, it is hoped, are as contemptible for their numbers as for their baseness of soul. This is the season when others may prove that love for their country which they profess themselves to be inspired with, and shew that they are what they would appear to be. There are none of us who cannot do some good service in this great conflict. The aged may supply their want of strength by counsel. The young will probably never meet with another opportunity to signalise [*an illegible line*] their valour so much to their honour. Whilst you are asserting the rights of mankind, and delivering your country from bondage, those who fall cannot die in a better cause, nor can those who survive with victory earn a nobler triumph. Vast indeed will be the expense of armaments we must for a time sustain: but what do men who know the value of liberty think too great a price to purchase it with! and what is property worth, or rather can we have property, if we enjoy not liberty. Let us all then"

Words in brackets were struck out.

Resolved, That the farther consideration of the report be postponed till to morrow.

Resolved, That the committee have leave to sit again.

A letter from Mr. J[ohn] Jay, introducing Johann Philip Merkle to the notice of Congress, was read:

Resolved, That it be referred to the Secret Committee, and that they be directed to confer with the gentleman.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

For ferriages of two brass field pieces, sent to Virginia, the sum of 6 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to James Davidson:

To Walter Stewart for his expences in going on board the *Liverpool* frigate, the sum of 8 15/90 dollars:

To David Lenox, for his expences going to New York as an escort of money, the sum of £23 10 8=62 68/90 dollars:

To William Sheppard, for waggon-hire on two journies to New York, the sum of £21 10 4. On a journey to Port Royal, in Virginia, with General Lee, £17, both amounting to £38 10 4=102 64/90 dollars:

On several certificates for entertaining General Lee's guards, the sum of £14 4 0=37 78/90 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to George Ross, Esq[r]

To Robert Erwin, for waggonage of gun powder to the city of New York, the sum of £155 5=414 dollars.

Ordered, That the said accounts be paid.

The said committee farther reported, that Captain John Lowdon had laid before the committee, an account of the expenditure of money paid into his hands, for the purpose of raising a company of rifflemen, amounting to the sum of £218 5 7 ||=582 7/90 dollars:||

Transporting baggage from Northumberland to Reading, £15 0 0 ||=40 dollars:||

Amount of divers articles ordered to be charged to Captain Lowdon, which now appear to be continental charges, £18 15 3 ||=50 3/90 dollars:||

Amount of John Harris, and Elias Younkman's bills, which have been twice paid, and twice charged to Captain Lowdon, and which ought now to be charged to the committee of Berks county, £32 8 8 ||=86 44/90 dollars:||

Amounting in the whole to the sum of £284 9 6 ||=758 54/90 dollars:||

Ordered, That Captain Lowdon be credited with the above sum, and that the committee of Berks county be charged with the sum above mentioned.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1776

||Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on the mode of regulating the price of salt; and, thereupon, came to the following resolution:||

Whereas it hath been represented to Congress, that avaricious, ill designing men, have taken advantage of the resolve of Congress, passed the 30th of April, for withdrawing, from the committees of inspection, the power of regulating the price of goods, to extort from the people a most exorbitant price for salt:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committees of observation and inspection in the United Colonies, so to regulate the price of salt, as to prevent unreasonable exactions on the part of the seller, having due regard to the difficulty and risque of importation; subject, however, to such regulations as have been, or shall hereafter be made, by the legislatures of the respective colonies.[1]

[1] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 5 June, 1776.

The Committee, to whom the letter from Joseph Woodward, chairman of the committee of the New Hampshire grants, was referred, and who were directed to hear the persons mentioned in said letter, brought in their report, which was read.

The committee, to whom the petition address and remonstrance of the persons inhabiting that part of America, ~~which is situate on the~~ which is commonly called and known by the name of the New Hampshire grants, was referred, have examined the matter thereof, and come to the following resolution thereupon:

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that it be recommended to the petitioners, for the present, to submit to the government of New York, and contribute their assistance, with their countrymen, in the contest between Great Britain and the united colonies; but that such submission ought not to prejudice the right of them or others to the lands in controversy, or any part of them, nor be construed to affirm or admit the jurisdiction of New York in and over that country; and ~~that,~~ when ~~tranquillity shall be restored, the congress will resume the consideration of the subject matter of the said petition and proceed to do thereupon what may be proper~~[1] the present Troubles are at an End the final Determination of their Right may be mutually referr'd to proper Judges.[2]

The committee to whom it was referred to consider of an adequate reward for the person who brought the late intelligence from England, brought in their report; Whereupon,

Resolved, That he receive his pay, being a soldier in Captain Morgan's company of rifflemen, to be continued from the time of his captivity until the 15th day of June next, and a gratuity of one hundred dollars.

[1] To this point the report is in the writing of George Wythe. It is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 40, I, folio 1. It is endorsed "Read, 30 May, 1776. Ordered to lie on the table." There is no record of the appointment or membership of the committee to whom the petition of Allen (see under June 4, p 416, *post*) was referred; but it appears to have been referred to the same committee, and one or more members added. Only in this way can the writing of the report by Wythe be explained.

[2] This last sentence is in the writing of John Hancock.

A petition from Captain Herman Allen was presented to Congress, and read.

An extract of a letter from a gentleman in Bermuda, dated the 26th April, and continued to the 1 May, 1776, to a gentleman in Philadelphia, was presented to Congress, and read.

Resolved, That it be referred to the committee appointed to examine the most proper ports to be fortified.[1]

Resolved, That six of the heaviest cannon at Newport, and fourteen of the heaviest cannon at New London, belonging to the continent, be transported to Philadelphia as soon as possible:

That a copy of the above resolution be transmitted to the governors of Rhode Island and Connecticut.

The Congress then took into consideration the report of the committee appointed to confer with his Excellency General Washington, Major General Gates, and Brigadier General Mifflin; and, after some debate,

Resolved, That it be referred to a committee of the whole Congress.

Congress then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the report of the committee appointed to confer with the generals; and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that the committee have taken into consideration the matter to them referred, and have come to a resolution; but, not having time to go through [the whole], desire leave to sit again.

The resolution delivered in from the committee of the whole Congress being read, was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That the General be authorized to direct the building as many fire rafts, row gallies, armed boats, and

[1] This letter, unsigned, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 58, folio 353. The names of the committee are given under March 23, 1776, *ante*.

floating batteries as may be necessary, and suitable for the immediate defence of the port of New York, and Hudson's river.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the report of the Committee of Conference.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1776

A letter of the 22 from Esek Hopkins, Commodore of the continental fleet, enclosing the proceedings of two courts martial on John Hazard, commander of the sloop *Providence*, and Abraham Whipple, commander of the *Columbus*, ||was laid before Congress, and read:||[1]

Resolved, That the said letter be referred to the committee appointed the 8th of May ||on the instructions given to Commodore Hopkins.||

A letter from Jonathan Trumbull, [Jun.] deputy pay master general, dated Albany 21 May, was laid before Congress, and read.[2]

A petition from Hugh King, in behalf of himself and others, was presented to Congress, and read.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of Brigadier General Mifflin, quartermaster general, for the sum of 50,000 dollars to enable him to pay for tents, entrenching tools, and sundry other articles, for the use of the continental army; he to be accountable.

[1] These proceedings are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 58, folios 259, 263.

[2] Trumbull's letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XXII, folio 31.

The Committee of Conference brought in a farther report, which was read:

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee that ~~lb. of lead be sent to General Schuyler as soon as possible; and that~~ the ~~Committee of Middle Town~~ Governor and assembly of the Colony of Connecticut, the Committee ~~of the County of Albany in the Province~~ the Convention of New York, ~~of the County of North Hampton in~~ the General Assembly of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, ~~of the County of Fin Castle in the Dominion of Virginia~~ and the Convention of the Colony of New Jersey, and the several ~~other Committees~~ conventions of such other ~~Counties in the united Colonies~~ of the united colonies in which there are any lead mines, be requested to transmit to this Congress with all convenient Dispatch the State and Condition of the lead mines in their respective ~~Districts~~ colonies.[1]

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee that the Service will render it necessary for General Schuyler to increase the number of Batteaus to two hundred.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Committee that four of the Prisoners taken at St. John's, and suggested by the said Letter from Capt. Robertson to have inlisted in the continental Army, to wit William Roughead and Elisha Grisler in Capt. Hubley's Company, John Santon in Capt. Browne's Company, and John Mayot in a Company unknown, ought to be dismissed the Service and returned to their Corps at Lancaster.[2]

~~Ordered, To lie on the table.~~

Resolved, That it be referred to the committee of the whole Congress.

~~The committee having requested leave to sit again, which was granted.~~

Resolved, That John Connolly, John Smith, and Allan Cameron, three of the prisoners confined in the gaol of

[1] This paragraph is printed June 3, p. 413, *post*.

[2] This report, in the writing of James Duane, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, VI, folio 197. It is endorsed, "Brought in 31 May, and read. Ordered to lie on the table. Determined." Against the first paragraph is written in the margin "Referr'd to Com^ee^ Agreed to in Com^ee^ of the Whole, June 3, 1776." Against the second and third paragraphs is written the word "agreed," but they are printed under May 25, p. 392, *ante*, showing some confusion in dates.

Philadelphia, who are represented to be in a dangerous state of health, be permitted, for the recovery of their health, to walk two hours in the day in the yard of the prison, in company and under the inspection of at least two of the guards.

Congress then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the report of the Committee of Conference; and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that the committee have taken into their farther consideration the matter referred to them, and have come to sundry resolutions; but, not having gone through the report, have desired him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to morrow, again resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the report of the Committee of Conference.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1776

Sundry letters and papers were laid before Congress, and read, among which a letter from the committee of Hartford and a letter from the committee of Northampton, ||in Connecticut,|| respecting prisoners,[1]

Resolved, That these be referred to the Committee on Prisoners.

A letter from Governor Trumbull of the 27th of May;

A letter from Colonel [Joseph] Reed, informing Con-

[1] The letter from the committee of Hartford, dated May 27, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 66, I, folio 175.

gress, that, he, upon his arrival at New York, finding a gentleman of character and abilities performing the services of secretary, with satisfaction to the General, he was induced to request, and has obtained the General's leave, to resign that office.[1]

The Committee for Indian Affairs, to whom it was referred to consider of a proper present for the Indians, brought in their report: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the said committee be directed to purchase goods for a present to the Indians, to an amount not exceeding £160 Pensylvania currency, ||=426 60/90 dollars.||

The Congress then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration, the report of the Committee of Conference; and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that the committee have taken into their farther consideration the matter referred to them, and have agreed on some reports, which they desired him to make, and farther to move for leave to sit again.

The report from the committee of the whole Congress being read, the same was taken into consideration: and thereupon,

Resolved, That six thousand militia be employed to reinforce the army in Canada, and to keep up the communication with that province; and to make up that number,

Resolved, That the colony of Massachusetts bay, be requested to supply, of their militia 3,000—4 batallions.

Connecticut, of their militia 1,500—2 batallions.

[1] The letter from Governor Trumbull is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 66, I, folio 167. That of Reed is in No. 78, XIX, folio 29. The name of the secretary was Robert Hanson Harrison.

New Hampshire, of their militia 750—1 batallion.
New York, of theirs 750—1 batallion.[1]

Resolved, That the farther consideration of the report be postponed till Monday next.

Resolved, That the Congress will, on Monday next, again resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the report of the Committee of Conference.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Anthony Fricker, for boarding the Scotch hostages from the 22 March to the 4th of June, the sum of £92 11 4=246 78/90 dollars:

To Samuel Patterson, for waggon hire and dining the prisoners brought from North Carolina, the sum of £2 17 6=7 60/90 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Thomas M'Kean, Esq[r].

Ordered, That the said accounts be paid.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock on Monday.

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 1776

Sundry letters received by General Washington, were laid before Congress, and read.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers, for 1,066 2/3 dollars, in favour of Ephraim Blaine, Esq[r] in advance, for the purchase of shoes, to be sent to Williamsburg, for the use of the continental Army; he to be accountable.

[1] These figures are modified from those given in the Committee's report printed under May 29, p. 399, *ante*. The proposed number of 1,000 Indians was rejected, and in its place "And as a farther reinforcement, *Resolved*, That a number of Indians, not exceeding 2,000 men, be taken into the pay of the Continent." See the resolution under June 3.

The Committee of Conference brought in a farther report, which was read:

Resolved, That the same be referred to the committee of the whole Congress.

The Congress then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration, the report of the Committee of Conference; and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that the committee have had under their farther consideration the matter to them referred, and have come to sundry resolutions thereon, ||which they have directed him to report;|| but, not having come to a conclusion, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

The Congress then took into consideration the report from the committee of the whole: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the General be empowered to employ in Canada a number of Indians, not exceeding two thousand.

Resolved, That 13,800 militia be employed to reinforce the army at New York; to compleat which number,

Resolved, That the colony of Massachusetts, be requested

to furnish of their militia	2,000
Connecticut of their militia	5,500
New York, of their militia	3,000
New Jersey, of their militia	3,300
Making in the whole	13,800

Resolved, As the opinion of this Congress, that the eleven batallions, raised and ordered to be raised for the protection of the four New England colonies, are sufficient.

Resolved, That a flying camp be immediately established in the middle colonies; and, that it consist of 10,000 men; to compleat which number,

Resolved, That the colony of Pensylvania be requested to furnish of their militia the number of 6,000
Maryland, of their militia 3,400
Delaware government, of their militia 600

||Total|| 10,000

Resolved, That the militias be engaged to the first day of December next, unless sooner discharged by Congress.[1]

That the pay of the militias commence from the day of their marching from home, and that they be allowed one penny a mile, lawful money, in lieu of rations, for travelling expences, and one day's pay for every twenty miles, between home and the general rendezvous, going and returning:

That three Major Generals, and two Brigadier Generals, be added to the continental establishment of general officers, and that the vacancies in the offices of adjutant general, and quarter master general, be filled up:

That the general assembly of the colony of Massachusetts bay, the governor and assembly of the colony of Connecticut, the conventions of New York and New Jersey, and the several conventions of such other of the United Colonies, in which there are any lead mines, be requested to transmit to Congress, with all convenient despatch, the state and condition of the lead mines in their respective colonies, and use the most speedy means to procure their being wrought to effect:

That it be earnestly recommended to the assemblies, conventions, and committees of safety in the United Colonies, to fall upon the most effectual means of removing the stocks, grain, and meal, from such parts of their

[1] "The particular mode of enlisting the Pennsylvania and [New] York troops originated with their and your Delegates, and as they moved it Congress could not but gratify them." *Hancock to Convention of New York*, 11 June, 1776.

respective colonies, as are invaded, or are in imminent danger of being invaded by the enemy.[1]

That two provincial brigadiers general be employed in the Canada department; one from Massachusetts bay, and one from Connecticut:

That four provincial brigadiers general be employed in the New York department; one from Massachusetts bay, one from Connecticut, one from New York, and one from New Jersey:

That three provincial brigadiers general be employed for the flying camp; two from Pensylvania, and one from Maryland:

That the said brigadiers general be appointed by the respective colonies abovementioned.

That the commander in chief be authorized to form and fix such magazines of provisions and military stores, as he may judge necessary.

Resolved, That to morrow be assigned for electing the three continental majors general and the two brigadiers general, and for filling up the vacancies in the offices of adjutant general, and quarter master general.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be empowered to export produce of these colonies to the foreign West Indies, sufficient to pay for ten thousand stand of arms, ordered to be procured from thence by the Committee of Secret Correspondence.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to morrow, again resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the report of the Committee of Conference.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

[1] Printed in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, 25 June, 1776.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 1776

Resolved, That an order for three hundred pounds Pensylvania currency, equal to 800 dollars, be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of Joseph Swift, Junr being in full of a draught of the 10th of May, in his favour by B[enjamin] Franklin, Samuel Chase, and Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, commissioners in Canada, for value by them received there, and employed in the public service.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the assemblies and conventions of the colonies, requested to supply or furnish militia by the resolutions of yesterday, to take particular care that the militias come provided with arms, accoutrements, and camp kettles.

A letter of the 3d from William Palfrey, pay master general, was laid before Congress, and read.[1]

Resolved, That it be referred to the committee to whom were referred the letters received the 21 of May last.

A letter of the 31 May from John Macpherson. was laid before Congress and read:[2]

Resolved, That it be referred to Mr. [George] Read and Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, who are directed to confer with Mr. Macpherson.

A petition from Colonel Turbutt Francis, was presented to Congress, and read.

Resolved, That it be referred to a committee of seven.

The members chosen, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. W[illiam] Livingston, Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. R[obert] R. Livingston, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, Junr and Mr. [Carter] Braxton.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to deliver the muskets lately imported, to Colonel Shee, for the use of his batallion.

[1] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 165, folio 449.

[2] This letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XV, folio 53.

Resolved, That Captain [Herman] Allen have leave to withdraw the petition by him delivered, in behalf of the inhabitants of the New Hampshire grants, he representing that he has left at home some papers and vouchers necessary to support the allegations therein contained.[1]

Resolved, That the committee of safety of Pensylvania be empowered to negotiate with Captain Bellew, on the best terms they can, for an exchange of the prisoners on board the *Liverpool;* Provided always, that this shall not be construed so as to enable them to deliver up Lieutenant Bogar and Lieutenant Ball in the exchange.

Agreeable to order, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the report of the Committee of Conference; and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that the committee have taken into their farther consideration the matters referred to them, and have come to some farther resolutions (which he delivered in), but that not having yet come to a conclusion, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

The resolutions agreed to in a committee of the whole Congress, being again read,

Resolved, That the consideration of them be postponed till to morrow.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to morrow, again resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the report of the Committee of Conference.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to 10 o'Clock to Morrow.

[1] This is found in a writing not identified, added to the report on Woodward's letter, printed in the proceedings of May 30, p. 405, *ante*.

O

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